OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

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College is named top performing in the area

THE Walford and North Shropshire College has been named the top performing general further education college in the Marches area.

The college was top of the list of all four general FE colleges in Shropshire and Herefordshire in the recent league tables announced by the Department of Education.

Andrew Tyley, college principal and chief executive, said he was delighted with the achievement, which he put down to year on year improvements in success rates.

Mr Tyley said the college's results were above average for 16 to 18 year old students.

"Our most impressive achievements are in A-levels, where our best-ever success rate of 99 per cent in 2012 is more than four per cent above the national average," he added.

"We are also extremely proud of our success in functional maths and English – skills which are of critical importance to students entering the world of work – where we are also more than five per cent above the national average."

Mr Tyley said the college was also managing to buck the recent downward trend in national success rates for apprenticeships.

Potential students interested in studying at the Oswestry Campus can attend an open event tonight, from 5.30pm to 8pm. For further information and a prospectus visit **www.wnsc.ac.uk**

Council picks up top prize

COUNCIL bosses in Mid Wales have picked up a national award for their commitment to working in a sustainable way.

Powys Council Council received the innovation award at the Public Sector Sustainability Awards.

The authority won the top prize for developing a 'toolkit' to help it become a more sustainable organisation.

CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB AWARDS 2013
in association with Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

Searching for best in business

THE OSWESTRY & Border Chronicle Business Awards 2013 are officially launched today as we search for the very best in business across our circulation region.

Following the outstanding success of last year's event we are again looking to celebrate the rich resource of skills and people who thrive and prosper in today's challenging market place.

Again launched in association with Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, the awards will be held in conjunction with the Lion Quays Waterside Resort where a glittering awards ceremony will be held on May 1, when finalists will be competing for nine major trophies.

Lucky

Whether employing a handful of staff or a workforce of hundreds; whether turning over thousands of pounds or millions of pounds; operating in a new service sector or a long established area of manufacturing, we want to hear from you.

The key ingredient is that your business must be mainly or wholly based in The Chronicle circulation area.

All the lucky finalists, together with our sponsors and other representatives from the business community, will enjoy hospitality at the Lion Quays Resort in May when the winners will be announced and awards presented.

But hurry, time is pressing and you only have until March 8 to get your entries in.

● **Full details – See Page 12**

ATTACK ON FREEZE OF POLICE TAX BILL

AN EXTRA two per cent a year on council taxpayers' policing bill would have stopped the cuts expected to the police force across Shropshire, a former officer has said.

Councillor Steve Haworth a former police inspector, now a member of Oswestry Town Council, criticised the decision by the Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore to recommend a zero increase after 1,000 people took part in consultation over the cost of policing on their council tax.

Speaking at a meeting of Oswestry Town Council on Monday, Councillor Haworth said he was very concerned about the effect of expected cuts in policing across West Mercia.

The commissioner will be the guest at a public meeting organised by the town council in the Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry on February 26. He is expected to be questioned over rumours about the closures of the town's police station.

by Graham Breeze

Councillors at last Monday's meeting voted that Councillor Haworth and the mayor Councillor Martin Bennett draw up the town council's response to the draft police and crime plan and precept options. The responses have to be with Mr Longmore by tomorrow.

Happy

Councillor Howarth said that a two per cent increase in the precept would allow approximately 30 police constable or 60 police community support officer posts to be maintained beyond 2015/2016.

He said: "That two per cent increase would add approximately 7p a week to a band D property owner. I would be happy to pay that and I am sure many people would be. It would be much better to spend that bit extra and have a quality service."

However Councillor Bennett pointed out that the decision to stick to a zero increase had already been made.

Councillor Heather Bickerton said that West Mercia's problems began when three years ago it became the most efficient police service in the country. She said: "There is simply no slack in the police force to deal with a drop in the numbers."

Two arrests as homes raided

TWO arrests have been made and more could follow after drug raids across Welshpool last Friday morning.

Three properties were raided and had their front doors smashed in by police wearing protective gear. Boxes were later seen being removed from the properties. The raids took place at Bron-y-Buckley, Gungrog Hill and a town centre property.

Detective Inspector Diane Davies confirmed that two men had been arrested, and would not rule out the possibility of further arrests or searches.

She said: "We will continue to prioritise our resources to dealing with offences and offenders who cause risk and harm to our communities."

Evie-Lou recovers after surgery

Evie-Lou Harrington waiting to go into theatre.

EVIE-Lou Harrington, a five-year old girl with cerebral palsy who flew to America for an operation to help her mobility, is recovering after surgery.

The youngster, from Llangynog, woke after a two-hour operation on Tuesday to read scores of cards from wellwishers, before falling back to sleep.

The cost of the trip to the St Louis Children's Hospital in Missouri was funded by a £30,000 public appeal.

The Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy was done to give Evie-Lou more movement in her legs and her parents Donna and Paul speaking from Missouri thanked everyone for messages of support. After the operation Mrs Harrington said: "Evie has woken up and we read her cards that everyone has sent her. Now she is back sleeping. Thank you all so much."

Mr Harrington will fly back at the weekend and Mrs Harrington and Evie-Lou will remain for follow-up appointments.

Rally revs back to town for third year

A MOTOR sports event which attracts hundreds of people to Welshpool each year has been confirmed again for this Spring.

The North Wales Car Rally, which was known as the Bulldog Rally, will hold a stage in Welshpool for the third year running, providing a boost to the local economy on April 6 and 7.

Traditionally the event allows fans to meet the drivers and see the cars up close before the rally starts the next day and this year is no exception.

But for the first time, the preliminaries will be held on the Saturday, with the rally starting on the Sunday morning.

On April 6 there will be an event on the Church Street car park. The rally cars will be there and the public can meet the drivers and there will be also be stalls, refreshments and bouncy castles.

On the Sunday, the rally will start and end at the Livestock Market.

Last year, hundreds of people flocked to both the pre-event and the rally itself, with traders reporting a boost in trade.

A spokesman for the rally said: "Rally North Wales will be the opening round of the 2013 British Rally Championship. The Rally headquarters location will be Welshpool Livestock Sales and the area used for the stages will be the following main roads: Welshpool to Machynlleth, Machynlleth to Dolgellau, Dolgellau to Bala and Bala to Welshpool."

Apprentices from France

A GROUP of French hairdressing apprentices are in Oswestry for two weeks to enjoy workshops, work experience and visits to typically English places.

The enterprise and development department of Walford and North Shropshire College is hosting the apprentices and their tutors from Tarbes south of Toulouse. They are working in local salons.

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Pylon protesters to spell out the plan of campaign

by Graham Breeze

CAMPAIGNERS fighting plans which could see pylons set up across the Shropshire and Mid Wales countryside will spell out their mission to halt the plans at a public meeting on Tuesday.

Members of Shropshire North Against Pylons (SNAP) will speak at a meeting of St Oswald and Llanymynech Local Joint Committee at Trefonen Village Hall, near Oswestry. And it is hoped the results of a survey of residents carried out by Carreghofa Community Council will be available.

The two organisations are among several strongly opposition to National Grid's plans to build a substation in Cefn Coch, near Welshpool, and set up a 400,000 volt power line and underground cables to link windfarms in Mid Wales to the country's main electricity network.

Network

The proposed route of the power lines will run from Cefn Coch through Llansanttfraid, south of Llanymynech and Oswestry to Lower Frankton to link to the national network.

Councillor Arthur Walpole, chairman of the LJC, said members of SNAP would be speaking at the meeting. He said: "We hope local people will come along to hear more."

Councillor Martin Clare, chairman of Carreghofa Community Council, said his authority had created a questionnaire for each household on the Welsh side of Llanymynech to complete.

He said there were five questions asking if they supported proposals for wind farms or the power line.

The meeting starts at 7pm. Details on (01691) 677306 or visit **www.shropshire.gov.uk/communityworking.nsf**

Training is offered on safe fitting of car seats

CHILDREN'S lives are being put at risk due to incorrectly fitted car seats, a study in Mid Wales has shown.

Powys County Council said 241 (69 per cent) of the 350 car seats it checked last year had not been fitted correctly. The council is now holding a week-long safety roadshow and encouraging parents to go along.

Councillor Barry Thomas, cabinet member for road safety, said it was vital that all seats were fitted properly.

He said: "The vast majority of faults found included wrong seatbelt routing, twisted belts or loose seats which may contribute to serious injures in the event of a vehicle crash. These faults are easily rectified by our trained officers."

The free check, which only takes a few minutes, is between 9am and 3.30pm on: March 11 at Coed y Dinas store car park, outside Welshpool.

For details call the Road Safety Unit on 0845 6027030, or just turn up on the day.

Time for restored clock's return

Proprieter Annette Broderick and manager Steve Elson take a look at the restored clock outside Oswestry Goldsmiths

AN Oswestry landmark has been restored to its former glory.

The clock which hangs above Oswestry Goldsmiths in Church Street, was re-erected on Sunday, having spent the last year being refurbished.

It has been a constant part of Church Street since it was placed above the store in 1927, which was then owned by Northern Goldsmiths. It was in 2011 that Oswestry Goldsmiths became the new owners of the store and commissioned the refurbishment of the clock. It has been restored to its original state with the only exception being that the dial now has Oswestry Goldsmiths on it.

The restoration of the clock coincides with the two-year anniversary of Oswestry Goldsmiths taking over the store.

Millions expected to switch off lights

POWYS County Council is urging residents, businesses and organisations in the Welshpool area to join hundreds of millions of people across the globe in turning off their lights for one hour next month.

The council is supporting the WWF's Earth Hour 2013 which is taking place on March 23.

Earth Hour 2012 was the biggest yet with hundreds of millions of people taking part across an astonishing 152 countries and 6,950 town and cities.

Councillor Barry Thomas, cabinet member responsible for sustainability, said: "The way we live has impacts that we can't always see or haven't experienced directly. From extreme weather changes such as flooding or drought, to food shortages, the loss of species and deforestation.

"Earth Hour is about realising that the action we take, from the energy we use, to the food we buy and water we drink, has an effect on the world. We all depend on our amazing planet and need to look after it – not just for an hour a year, but every day."

If you want to get involved in this global phenomenon then visit www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour

Radio chat for teacher

A TEACHER has appeared on Radio 3's arts programme Night Waves to discuss the life and novels of Rumer Godden.

Matthew Dennison, an English and history teacher at Moreton Hall School near Oswestry, was invited on to the show to mark the reissue by Virago Modern Classic of a number of Godden's novels.

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Traders urged to have say on future in online survey

PLANNING consultants working on the Oswestry 2020 project have appealed to the town's business community to complete an online questionnaire.

Oswestry 2020 is a group of representatives of local authorities, education, business, local organisations and the local community looking to shape a vision for the future of the town.

But planning consultant Tim Morris told the town's Chamber of Commerce that so far not enough businesses had completed a questionnaire on the group's website.

by Graham Breeze

"We believe that our priorities and aspirations should be clearly set out to direct future investment in our town.

"We need business people to answer the vital questions about where Oswestry is going – and where it needs to go," he said.

"But only 40 have so far responded. We need more feedback. It is very important that we get input from the town's businesses."

Mr Morris said consultants had been employed to contact major employers directly but he was questioned on why some had not.

Lyn Pearson, marketing manager at the Lion Quays Resort, said her organisation would have been willing to take part but had not been consulted.

Jools Payne, of The Jools Payne Partnership, said: "It's unthinkable that a business such as The Lion Quays Resort, employing up to 300 people, should not be consulted.

Lazy

"It's indicative of the complacent businesses that we have in Oswestry that response to the questionnaire is so low. You could say we have a lazy business community."

Chamber chairman Martin Anderson said the link to the questionnaire would be distributed to all members.

"Please complete the document if you haven't already and send it to your business contacts as well," he said.

"It is important we do not miss this opportunity."

The steering group contains representatives from a number of bodies including Shropshire Council, Oswestry Town Council, Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, The Best of Oswestry, U3A, Churches Together, Oswestry Life Centre, The Qube, Oswestry Senior Citizens Club, The Rotary Club of Oswestry, The Marches School, Walford & North Shropshire College, and Oswestry Civic Society.

Business bosses who wish to complete the Oswestry 2020 survey should log on to **www.surveymonkey.com/s/Oswestry2020BusinessesJan**

Couple in plea over fire crew cutbacks

A COUPLE who tackled a blaze in their home as they waited for firefighters to arrive said this week they had no doubt lives would be lost if further cuts were made to the service.

Tracy Knowles and her husband Clive battled a blaze at their home and business in Aston, near Oswestry, in November last year. It took firefighters from Oswestry 14 minutes to reach them.

Instead of waiting, Mr Knowles filled a water bin and threw it on the flames before getting a fire extinguisher from an outbuilding.

Mrs Knowles today called cuts to the fire service 'cruel' and said lives would be lost as people tried to tackle fires themselves.

She said: "The fire service advice is 'Get out, stay out, get the fire service out.

"But we know for certain if we'd just got out we would have lost the back of the house and possibly the whole property.

"We didn't know how long it would take the fire service to reach us. In your mind, you dial 999 and think they will turn up immediately.

"The rate at which the fire goes through the property is alarming."

Mrs Knowles said that if frontline services were lost because of deepening cuts, she was in no doubt somebody would lose their life.

Antiques event coming to town

EXPERTS will be on hand at an antique and collectors fair being held in Welshpool Town Hall on June 29.

The event, which takes place between 10am and 4pm, will offer visitors the chance to have items valued.

Entry is free, stalls are £15 and anyone interested should contact Mike Breeze on (01686) 640557.

Road accident victim backed in 20mph call

AN ACCIDENT victim's petition to get a blanket 20mph speed limit for the whole of Oswestry town centre has collected 200 signatures.

Now Sarah-Charlotte Peace, who suffered serious leg injuries when a car ran over her legs, has also launched an online version.

Mrs Peace, from Oswestry, spent 13 nights in hospital and remains on crutches after the accident in Salop Road last August.

She wants people to support her '20's Plenty' campaign to stop motorists travelling too fast on town centre roads.

Her petition can found at **http://petitions.shropshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/system/viewPetition?petitionid=6538**

Mrs Peace, who has also placed copies of the petition in Oswestry shops Honeysuckle, Stuart Barkley's and Radio Cafe, said reducing speed to 20mph would encourage more people to walk and cycle.

"I read the other day that for every mile per hour dropped in speed there is a six per cent reduction in injuries," she said. "If we can drop from 30 mph to 20mph that is a 60 per cent reduction."

A number of councillors had given their backing, including town councillor Saffron Rainey. Local cycling and walking groups are also interested in the campaign.

Mrs Peace is asking people to contact councillors.

"With the coming election I am sure they will be willing to listen," she added.

To find out more about the campaign visit **http://peacecycling.blogspot.co.uk or email peacecycling@btinternet.com**

Historic moment at bowls club

Janice Allport (left) was elected the 2013-14 captain at the club's annual general meeting while Pat Mabe was appointed vice captain

THIS joyful duo are making history by becoming the first lady captain and captain elect of Oswestry's Wynnstay Bowling Club.

Janice Allport was elected the 2013-14 captain at the club's annual general meeting last week.

And to ensure there will be petticoat rule on the Wynnstay green, Pat Mabe was appointed vice captain at the same meeting.

Janice said: "It is a great honour to be elected the first woman captain of such a distinguished bowling club. And I am delighted that Pat Mabe successfully stood as vice captain as she will be able to help ensure we have a great year's bowling."

In this early part of the season Janice will be kept busy finalising the year's programme and fixing up competitions.

Three in running for top police job

A SHORTLIST of three has been revealed to be in the running to become Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys Police.

Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon has revealed the names of the final three candidates for the post, with the successful candidate being revealed in early March.

The three in the running are Jackie Roberts, the current temporary chief constable, Nick Ingram, deputy chief constable with the force and Simon Prince, who is currently assistant chief constable at Gwent Police.

Commissioner Salmon began advertising the post last month and said he is delighted with the standard of applications he has received.

Delighted

He will also become the first Commissioner to appoint a chief constable in Wales since the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in November last year.

He said: "I am delighted that we have received applicants from three quality candidates.

"This is an exciting opportunity to lead a fantastic police service and an important first step in building the team that will keep us all safe in the coming years."

Assessments and interviews will take place on February 21 and 22 and it is anticipated the commissioner will be in a position to announce the name of the successful candidate sometime in early March.

Blaze guts van

A VAN was destroyed in a blaze on the Morda Road in Oswestry just before 9am on Tuesday.

Firefighters from Oswestry brought the fire under control in 20 minutes.

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NEWS 01691 668094

New U3A group to launch as scores sign up for fun

THE vision of retired people settling down with their slippers and the crossword is a thing of the past in Oswestry.

So many people have signed up to the town's University of the Third Age group that a second one is being launched.

A launch meeting for the new Oswestry U3A will be held on March 13 at 2pm at The Centre in Oak Street.

One of those involved in setting the group up is Anne Lynch. She said: "One in four of the population is in the 'third age', retired or partially retired.

by Graham Breeze

"The U3A, believing that the third age should be one of creativity, fulfilment and friendship, is an organisation based on the love of learning for pleasure and the love of society and friendship.

"Oswestry U3A is well established, extremely popular, very successful and bursting at the seams. Because of its great success a second U3A is to be launched."

An international organisation, U3A groups are run by the members for the members. Activities are far-ranging and varied with members providing the experience and skills.

Research

"Members may wish to know more about a topic and form a research group where information is shared and the way forward discussed and planned as a co-operative activity – history groups are among those often run on this basis.

"Some interest groups are based on discussion, current affairs for example, some on physical activity, walking and cycling being very popular, bridge, scrabble, diners clubs and outings – the sky is the limit."

The new Oswestry U3A would also be part of the West Midlands Region and be welcome at the range of events held in the region.

"Anyone in the third age can join U3A. No qualifications are required and none are given. U3A membership offers new challenges, new opportunities and new friends."

Volunteers to give update on rail progress

VOLUNTEERS from Cambrian Heritage Railways will be giving an update on the project at a meeting this month.

The Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martins and Weston Rhyn Local Joint Committee will take place at the All Saints Church Hall, in Gobowen, on February 26 at 7pm.

During the evening there will be information about access to broadband and a progress report on the schools reorganisation in Ifton and St Martins.

Information will also be provided for those wishing to stand as candidates in the forthcoming county, town and parish councils in May.

More than a dozen organisations and groups will find out how much grant money they will be given from the LJC funding pot.

DJ Mark wows 'em on stage

DJ Mark Radcliffe performs at The Ironworks with his band Mark Radcliffe and Foes

RADIO and TV star Mark Radcliffe showed off his musical prowess – and regaled the audience with some Northern chit-chat – when he performed at an Oswestry venue.

The Bolton-born broadcaster is best known for fronting music shows on BBC TV and radio and for presenting the coveted Radio 1 breakfast show alongside broadcasting partner Marc Riley in the late 1990s.

But he also has a passion for performing live music and he took to the stage at The Ironworks in Oswestry last week with his latest project Mark Radcliffe and Foes.

Steve Gore, from the Ironworks, said: "Everyone was impressed by his music – and one of the most enjoyable aspects was probably his chit-chat between songs."

Mr Gore said the venue was working to promote world music and a forthcoming act would be a group of tribesmen from the Niger in Africa.

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NEWS

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Caravan flips over in police pursuit

A MAN will appear in court later this month to face theft and driving charges after a stolen caravan he was towing overturned on the A5 near Oswestry.

Police recovered the £8,000 caravan after a worried motorist spotted it being towed dangerously on Wednesday, February 6.

The motorist told police he was concerned about it swerving erratically across the road and because it was not displaying lights.

Officers responded and traced the caravan being towed by a car on the northbound carriageway just south of Oswestry. It overturned as officers arrived and the driver was arrested.

The caravan had been stolen from the driveway of a house in Shrewsbury earlier in the evening.

A 29-year-old man from North Wales was taken into custody at Shrewsbury police station and later charged with theft.

He was also charged with driving without due care, failing to stop for police and driving without insurance.

He was bailed with conditions to appear before Shrewsbury magistrates on February 21.

West Mercia Police spokesman Richard Ewels said: "We very much appreciate the alert given by the caller."

Planners to rule over controversial egg unit

CONTROVERSIAL plans to build a 16,000-bird free range egg production unit in Meifod are due to go before planning chiefs today, Thursday.

The plans for Pant Farm in Meifod, near Welshpool, have come in for criticism from locals who fear an increase in traffic and bad smells from the unit.

by Andrew Morris

The plan was due before Powys County Council today, where it was recommended for approval.

Glyn Davies, Montgomeryshire MP, has written to the council to say many of his constituents have contacted him over the plans.

He said: "I have received a number of letters raising objections to the application, which include transport, odour management and location issues.

Flies

"I viewed the file and noted the number of objections raised. I also noted that the Environment Agency Wales and Countryside Council for Wales do not oppose the plan."

Roger and Helen Fielden, of Meifod, who oppose the plans, said: "We suffered a plague of flies last summer and understand the source of those flies was traced to the Pant Farm egg production shed.

"We are naturally concerned that the installation of a second unit will result in a further increase in fly concentrations."

In his report to the committee, planning officer John Pearson said: "This application relates to the erection of a 16,000-bird free range egg production unit which is an extension to the existing unit. The proposed building will be 100 metres long by 20 metres wide.

"The operation of the unit is based on a 14-month laying cycle with birds delivered at the beginning of the cycle and removed at the end.

"The birds are free range and have the opportunity to exit the building and range the area during the day.

"On balance, it is considered that the further investment and diversification in the economy outweighs the issued relating to visual impact, and the application is considered to meet the requirements of policy."

Wendy Unwin from the Gates in Oswestry is seen getting ready for the fair for Fairtrade event at the Parish Centre in Oswestry.

Cosy mugs idea offer for Fairtrade fundraising

OSWESTRY tea and coffee drinkers will no longer have to drink from naked mugs thanks to a crafty new project to help charity.

Wendy Unwin, from The Gates Gifts, in Church Street, is calling on people to help her make Mug Hugs for a Fairtrade event taking place in March.

She has the patterns in her shop for people to make the wraparounds out of felt or by knitting.

They will then be put on sale on March 9, during Fairtrade fortnight, at the St Oswald Centre, next to the parish church.

The money raised will go towards projects in Burkina Faso, in West Africa, the world's third poorest country. Miss Unwin said: "We are asking for people to knit a mug hug."

Fairtrade fortnight runs from February 25.

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Driver's warning over fuel cash con

A DRIVER is warning others to be on their guard after falling for a conman who duped him out of £80.

Dave Wright was flagged down on a country road near Oswestry by a man who claimed he was from Turkey and had no money to buy fuel because he could not use his bank card in Britain.

The Mercedes-driving motorist offered to leave his 'expensive' gold jewellery with the trusting Mr Wright in return for cash, and bring the money back to his home in Whittington the next day.

That was Thursday and Mr Wright, despite handing over £80, has not seen the man since. He took the two signet rings and necklace to the Value Centre jewellery shop in Oswestry, only to be told they were worthless.

Mr Wright, 57, said: "He said he was desperate to get to Manchester but had no money for fuel. He offered to leave me with his jewellery if he could borrow some money. He followed me to the service station at the Gledrid roundabout where I withdrew £80 for him.

"I now realise just how gullible I was, but I am not the sort of person to ignore someone in trouble."

Jason Brindley, from the Value Centre, said that sadly it was the sort of con trick that happened a lot. "Don't be taken in," he said.

Joseph's 14-month wait for second liver transplant op

A BERRIEW mother whose son has been waiting for a liver transplant for 14 months says there is no end to his wait in sight – 19 years to the week since he first underwent the procedure.

Claire King said her son Joseph Grigg, 19, takes more than 40 tablets and liquids a day to try and prevent his liver from deteriorating further while he waits for the life changing call to say a donor has been found.

Joseph was born with a rare genetic liver disease called Alpha-1-Antitrypsin Deficiency and at three months old was told he needed a liver transplant to save his life.

by Andrew Morris

He underwent the transplant on February 14 1994 and despite enjoying a normal childhood, Joseph's liver began to fail shortly after his 18th birthday and he has been waiting for a transplant ever since.

But Mrs King admits the length of time it could take before the good news arrives is 'as long as a piece of string' and said she hopes something will happen before he becomes too ill to receive it.

Active

"After a few months recovery following the transplant Joseph was like a completely different baby and had an almost normal and active childhood, until just after his 18th birthday in November 2011 when he started to feel unwell and became jaundiced.

"That month he was admitted to Birmingham Children's Hospital's liver unit and we were told that Joseph's liver was failing and that he will need another transplant and he was again put on the organ transplant list."

"Fourteen months on he is still waiting and his life is greatly impaired as he tires very easily from the toxins in his body and on his brain that his failing liver can no longer break down by itself.

Joseph attended Berriew Primary School and Welshpool High School and his mother is urging as many people as possible to become organ donors and has backed a campaign running this week by ITV to get more people to sign up.

Mrs King said: "It sounds selfish, but I really want as many people to sign up to become organ donors as possible because the organs from one dead person can save nine other lives."

She said ITV's From The Heart campaign will see a number of shows broadcast showing people's struggles as they await donor organs to be available.

"I really hope some people will take notice, it is such an important message and they can register to become an organ donor by visiting www.organdonation.nhs.uk and help save lives."

Four month old Joseph Grigg after receiving his first transplant.

Claire King and her son Joseph Grigg, 19, waiting for a donor.

Leaflet bid to attract tourists

A NEW leaflet to promote the 'Oswestry Season' is to be produced to attract more visitors to the town.

From the March literary festival through the various food, music, agricultural and arts events to Christmas Live, the town has a full annual calendar.

Now Oswestry Town Council is to investigate the cost of publishing leaflets to encourage more visits to the events.

At this week's town council meeting members agreed that the council should produce some kind of Oswestry Season 2013 leaflet.

Town clerk David Preston stressed he would be looking for sponsorship so that it would be at no cost to the town council

Mr Preston, said he would bring forward costings and ideas as soon as possible.

"The aim is to increase footfall in the town and at its events. There could be three leaflets produced each year with a 2,000 print run," he said.

Housing bids held up due to red tape

HOUSING developments across Shropshire are being held up because of policy red tape.

Planning officers have revealed that the council has had to put its own policy for house building on the back shelf while it builds up its list of sites for future development in the county.

Instead they are having to rely on national planning policies when giving advice to councillors.

A bid for homes along a canal near Oswestry, next to a World Heritage Site, had to be deferred. Officers in the planning department are having to re-write reports because the county does not have a five-year allocation of land for homes.

They had based their recommendations over the scheme for seven homes at Chirk Bank on the Shropshire local development plan.

But planning officer Tim Rogers told members of Shropshire Council's north planning committee the authority could only rely on its local policies if it could show that it had five years of housing site allocation.

"At the moment we have only 4.1 years of housing allocation," he said.

Planning officers had recommended refusal because the site was in an area of open countryside.

Advertisement

'. . . .what a wonderful shop!' '. . . .it's not a charity shop is it?' '. . . .there is so much choice and it's all lovely'. These are some of the comments made by customers at the local Relate charity shop in Ellesmere.

Relate Ellesmere has a growing reputation as the place to shop. Manager, Cathy Pettingale and her team of volunteers, work hard to keep a flow of stock which means the shop is always fresh and interesting. 'Our objective is to give our customers good quality, pre-owned clothing at reasonable prices, said Cathy, we are extremely fortunate to have such generous donors which allows us to do this'. Cathy goes on to say though? 'there is no doubt that these are difficult times for the smaller charity shops such as ours and donations of stock have dropped off significantly, whilst demand has increased. We are constantly appealing for donations of, not just clothing, but household items as well'.

Hanging alongside the usual High Street brands, you are also likely to discover ladieswear by Karen Millen, Ralph Lauren, Jigsaw, Hobbs and Barbour and recently bags by Marc Jacobs and Jimmy Choo have made some lucky customers very happy. The men are not forgotten either, with menswear by Crew, Maine, Gant, Timberland and Superdry.

Due to the success of the shop and, by popular demand, a second Relate shop has opened in Ellesmere specialising in children's wear and home furnishings.

If you are interested in working at Relate as a volunteer please contact Cathy Pettingale on 01691 623404.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Land issue raised in hopes of new jobs

OSWESTRY is 'critically' short of the vital employment land it needs to attract new jobs, a think tank of town councillors warned.

They have now drawn up a list of priorities and hope to pay for them using a share of the money Shropshire Council receives from housing developers, known as the community infrastructure levy.

And addressing the lack of sites on which employers can create new factories or offices is top of their list, along with improvements to the Mile End Roundabout, the creation of allotments and additional burial space.

At a place plan seminar organised by the council, members said planning for the town's future had not yet tackled investment in Oswestry's infrastructure.

"There are many worrying areas of deficiency, especially in terms of projects to develop the local economy," a report from the seminar said.

Talk on climbers

FEBRUARY'S meeting of Oswestry Garden Society will be a talk by Jim Almond on 'Climbers and other favourite garden plants'.

The talk is on Monday at 7.30pm in the town's memorial hall. Visitors welcome. Details on (01691) 659773.

Children tell baroness their views on drinking problems

BARONESS Newlove, who champions work to tackle alcohol-related crime after seeing her husband murdered in the street, was in Oswestry on Monday to talk to young people and hear about how the county is tackling under-age drinking.

The Government's Champion for Active Safer Communities visited the Centre, Oswestry's new youth base, where teenagers from The Marches School told her how they sometimes felt intimidated visiting the town at night.

by Graham Breeze

They said they were happy when there was a visible police presence in the town centre in the evenings, but wanted a more 'interesting' approach to alcohol education.

Kira Scott, 14, said: "At the end of primary school we went on a 'Crucial Crew' day where there were lots of scenarios that looked at dangers and how to avoid them. That sort of thing should be used to educate about alcohol. Sometimes Oswestry is not a good place to be at night when there are lot of drunk people on the streets."

Baroness Newlove urged those at the meeting to invite the new police commissioner to see the work that was taking place in the town.

She said: "It has been interested to hear the teenagers say that they don't feel comfortable in the town at night. I hope the work that is taking place here will help change attitudes about binge drinking."

Shropshire's Community Alcohol Partnership, involving Shropshire's Drug and Alcohol Action Team, West Mercia Police, and Shropshire Council's positive activities and Trading Standards teams are now involved in a two-year project to tackle alcohol problems.

Keith Barrow, leader of Shropshire Council, said: "We are delighted Baroness Newlove visited Shropshire to see the work we are doing with partners to help tackle underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour."

With Baroness Newlove are Marches School pupils Chloe Hedley, Kira Scott, Demelza Brookfield, Megan Elliot, Emily Edwards, Kirsty Bright, David Kendrick, Kacy Shaughnessy, Joshua Page and Daniel Taylor.

Film features town's BT hub

OSWESTRY'S BT international communications hub was turned into a television studio for a documentary.

The network management centre, on the outskirts of Oswestry, was held up as at the forefront of the latest in communications in the BBC Two programme The Genius of Invention, which was screened last Thursday.

BT's 'NASA mission control-style' centre – with its giant video wall – provided the television studio backdrop for debates, reports and experiments.

As well as exploring the history of the telegraph, telephone and wireless technologies, the programme gave viewers a rare glimpse into the fascinating day-to-day workings of the busy hub, which acts as the eyes and ears of BT's UK and international communications networks.

Around five billion calls pass over or connect through BT's 'core' network every month.

Fire crew called to fuel leak

FIREFIGHTERS were called to an Oswestry street earlier this week after petrol started leaking from a car.

One crew from Oswestry was called to Gittin Street, at around 6.30pm on Monday after petrol began leaking from a vehicle onto the street.

They were joined by a team from Shropshire Council and the AA who helped clean the fuel off road.

A spokesman for Shropshire Fire & Rescue said: "The road was a quiet residential street and did not need to be closed.

"We attended as a precaution because petrol is flammable.

"A team from Shropshire Council came and cleaned the road."

The spokesman added: "Everything was back to normal by 8pm."

Deadline to apply for grant funding

TIME IS running out for organisations carrying out community projects in villages near Oswestry to apply for funding from a council-run committee.

People based in Whittington, West Felton, Hordley, Ruyton-XI-Towns and Baschurch have until tomorrow to bid for a share of cash being offered by the Five Perry Parishes Local Joint Committee.

The meeting to decide which ventures in the villages, which are all near Oswestry, will receive cash will be held at Hordley and Bagley Village Hall on March 21.

The LJC has an annual budget of £14,000 to distribute among community and voluntary groups for projects which will be of benefit to local people.

In the last round of funding £324 was awarded to Oswestry Sibling Group for equipment and £800 was given to Whittington Community Centre for refurbishment work on the hall.

Councillor Aggie Caesar-Homden, chairman of the Five Perry Parishes LJC, said: "These meetings are a great opportunity for us to get together with our communities.

"They also provide a forum for us to hear people's views and listen to residents' concerns."

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Thursday 7th March, 10am-2pm: Wynnstay Hotel, 43 Church St, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 2SZ

Friday 8th March, 10am-2pm: Wrexham Memorial Hall, Bodhyfryd, Wrexham, Clwyd, North Wales, LL12 7AG

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Snubs keep rolling in for centre of market town

FIRST it was Dyfed Powys Police and now it's Powys County Council who are snubbing Welshpool town centre.

Recently the police authority announced that following the closure of the town's police station a van would be situated on the Tesco store car park at identified times – nowhere near the town centre.

And to rub salt into already open wounds, Powys County Council said a roadshow giving parents instruction on how to fit childrens' car seat will take place over a mile outside town at Coedydinas store's car park.

If I'm losing the plot please let me know but this latest piece of news has really wound me up.

There are two huge car parks in Welshpool town centre so can someone explain why this important safety roadshow should be taken to an out-of-town store on a market day Monday.

Children's lives are being put at risk due to incorrectly fitted car seats, a study in Mid Wales has shown. The council said 241 (69 per cent) of the 350 car seats it checked last year had not been fitted correctly – risking serious injury or death in the event of an accident.

The council is now holding a week-long safety roadshow and encouraging parents to go along which is admirable. So why stage the event at an out-of-town location which will only attract shoppers at Charlies Store?

❑❑❑❑

I COULDN'T help but be impressed when I read the news that Daphne Madden had been honoured by the Royal British Legion in Oswestry for raising Poppy Day cash for the past 39 years.

After years of tramping door to door selling poppies for the fund Daphne was recognized at a ceremony as the town's longest serving seller. That's some record which I doubt will ever be beaten.

❑❑❑❑

WELSHPOOL Town Council is trying to clamp down on people allowing their dogs to foul public places and about time too, if my experience is anything to go by.

Three times this week I have seen dog walkers allowing their pets to do their business in very public places and then simply walking away without a second glance.

While the council is looking at those allowing their pets to roam the town unattended, they should also take a close look at owners who turn a blind eye when they should know better.

❑❑❑❑

SPARE a thought this week for little Evie-Lou Harrington who underwent major surgery in America after the public raised the cash to send her for a life-changing operation.

No-one deserves a better lifestyle than little Evie-Lou who has suffered all of her short life. Her plight captured the imagination of the public and the cost of her American adventure was met. Throughout all of her suffering the youngster has always faced up to her problems with a smile.

The Chronicle has been following the five-year-old's progress since the campaign was launched and Evie's mum, Donna, has been keeping us informed on Facebook as the toddler went into theater.

Let's all hope that this massive effort has been a success and that Evie-Lou's quality of life will be massively improved by the surgery to help this cerebral palsy sufferer walk.

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN
with Graham Breeze

There's more to libraries than books at celebration

by Chrissy Symmons

OLD BOOKS, maps and documents were transformed into artwork as part of National Library Day.

Members of Inside Out art group gave demonstrations and offered hands-on activities for visitors to Oswestry Library on Saturday .

The theme of the day was Art of The Word and the artists made different sculptures to reflect that. There were also interactive puppet sessions.

Activities ran from 10.30am until about 3pm and Debbie Marais, the library's branch manager, said the day went well.

"It was fantastic and we had eight artists in residence during the day," she said. "There were also demonstrations with puppets, showing people how they were made.

"We had lots of different children's activities where they were constructing art pieces out of different items. They also made story trees and rainbow trees.

Encouraging

"Other artists were working with younger children creating characters from storybooks.

"One lady was making 3D sculptures out of the Sunday Times.

"We had lots of people joining in all day and lots of people filling in evaluation forms about the library.

"It was very encouraging to see people like the library.

"They enjoyed letting us know how much they loved it."

She said also during the day town councillors held surgery events and there were guitar lessons too.

"It was a very busy day," she said.

The Inside Out Art Group is made up of a collection of artists of all abilities who work and exhibit in the North Wales/north Shropshire borderlands region.

Some are professionals with years of experience and some are students. There are about 60 people who enjoy creating sculptors and painters, drawings and photograph and using all other kids of materials.

Darshan and Milen Sachdave, with artist Diana Baur

Sculptor Jim Heath is hard at work.

Woodcarver and sculptor Jim Heath.

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Advertisement feature

CAN I CLAIM DAMAGES FOR INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS?

Q: I recently had a hearing test and was diagnosed with noise induced hearing loss (NIHL). I was made redundant four years ago after working for 30 years as a press operator, but have since discovered my old press shop has now been made an ear protection zone. Can I still make a claim?

A: You will need to establish that your hearing loss was caused by exposure to noise in excess of statutory maximum levels when you worked for your former employer and that you have not been exposed to excessive noise outside of a working environment e.g. noisy hobbies or pastimes, exposure to gunfire or explosives. Statutory provisions within the Noise at Work Regulations apply to noise exposure in the workplace. Expert acoustic evidence may be required to establish your former employers' liability, in addition to a supportive diagnosis of NIHL.

Normally in personal injury claims you have 3 years from the date your injury was sustained in which to issue court proceedings. It is possible however that you have been exposed to excessive noise levels over many years and therefore your 'injury' has been sustained over a period of time. Potentially you can still make a claim provided you have not been aware for more than 3 years that you sustained an injury/damage to your hearing for which your former employer could be held liable. As you appear to have only recently become aware you should therefore take steps to pursue the matter as soon as possible, to avoid any such claim from becoming statute barred. A further consideration is a change to the law regarding compensation payments which comes into force this April, which means if you want to keep as much of your compensation as possible it would be best to sign up to a no-win no-fee agreement before the end of March.

Further information relating to this question is available from John Hulme, a Partner with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.co.uk or attend one of our FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary).

Lexcel

LETTERS

01691 668094

Rotary's big thank you for support

ELLESMERE Rotary Club's Community Service Chairman, Bob McBride, wishes to offer a big 'thank you' to all the people of Ellesmere and surrounding villages (and also the management and staff at our local Tesco) who so generously supported the recent Tree of Light appeal.

Despite the current economic climate, our small market town has, as always, stepped up to the challenge and raised the magnificent sum of £1,783 – of which £1,250 will be donated, via Tesco's national appeal, to Cancer Research UK and the remainder used help various Rotary charities – to directly aid people in need, within our local communities.

Also over the Christmas period, the Rotary's Christmas Hamper Raffle raised over £440 – all of which will be used to support the club's Youth Opportunities programme, helping schools in Ellesmere and surrounding villages. The winners were presented with their prizes at various hostelries in the town.

Save

At the same time the Rotary's plan to provide two life-saving automatic defibrillators within the town are progressing well – agreement has now been reached that their total cost of £2,800 will be funded equally by Rotary and the Local Joint Committee.

This fully automatic 'defib' equipment has been developed to help save anyone suffering sudden cardiac arrest – attacks of which kill more than 250 people every day, here in the UK.

SCA does not discriminate – it can happen to anyone, at any age and at any time.

A quick response, as available with automatic defibrillators, both reduces the risk of serious brain damage and increases survival rates.

In preparation for their installation, almost 40 local people recently attended a training session, presented by the West Midlands Ambulance Service, in the town hall – further such sessions are being planned.

None of this would be possible without the support of the people and business community of Ellesmere and its surrounding villages.

Members of Ellesmere Rotary Club gratefully acknowledge their continuing generosity.

GEOFF EVANS

Children's memorable school years

I WENT to my child's last parents evening at Lakelands School in Ellesmere.

I have had four children attend Lakelands and would like to communicate my deep appreciation of the experience they have had.

Lakelands is a small school and the atmosphere is friendly and open. Staff and pupils know each other well and there is a genuine mutual respect.

The school provides an excellent education where children learn to think for themselves and teaching opens minds and encourages depth and breadth of thought, giving them skills which will be lifelong assets.

Also, equally important, are the moral and ethical issues raised and discussed.

Furthermore, I have had cause, on occasion, to turn to the school for extra support.

The response has been swift, sympathetic, effective and enormously supportive.

The pastoral care is exemplary.

I commend the dedication of Lakelands' extraordinary staff.

I would like to express my huge respect, admiration and gratitude for all their hard work which has gone into giving each of my children five unforgettable years.

SARA WRIGHT
Ellesmere

Having admired Criccieth Castle while working on the railway in the Welsh town, Jack Cross drew a sketch and decided to make a model in his rockery out of milk tins, wire netting, and concrete. Here he is with the castle he modelled in his garden at 30 Hawthorne Grove, Oswestry, on August 18, 1968.

Anger at £22m for help paying council tax

SO Welsh Assembly Minister, Carl Sargeant, says funding of £22million will be provided to help residents facing cuts in council tax support in April this financial year.

He says changes to the welfare system brought in by the UK Government will mean cuts in income for people who can least afford it and says it concerns him and his colleagues greatly.

Surely households with a net income of £16,000-a-year paying no rent or council tax could afford to contribute something was my message.

A working person would need to earn £30,000 annual to have that kind of net income. I think they should contribute, since using the services council tax pays for.

They most certainly could afford the 10 per cent that will apply in England. If all the 9,000 households in Powys alone not paying anything pay something, it would cost less for rest of us.

Those who drink the water should help dig the well. Perhaps council tax should be based on net income and ability to pay, as many welfare claimants are not as poor as the Local Government Minister might think. We know why the Assembly Government has taken this stance. The thousands of unemployed people in the South Wales valleys will be most grateful, all voting for those AMs and thus allowing them to continue to keep their £40,000 salaries.

It is the high price working people pay for ever voting the Welsh Assembly Government into office not that we voted of course.

ROBERT PERKINS
Powys

Assistance with battlefield visits

THE Midlands-based War Research Society has for many years been taking veterans, families and interested parties to the battlefields of Europe and elsewhere.

Formed many years ago by serving police, military and civilian friends it is now preparing for tours in 2013, and has just published its latest brochure of tours.

In the build-up to the 100th Anniversary of the Great War, we thought your readers may be interested in seeing what we do.

We are in a position to assist in the research of family members who served in the various wars from Napoleonic times, through the Crimean, South African, First and Second World Wars, and can take relatives and interested parties to see where their ancestors fought and perhaps fell.

We will assist in the tracing of war graves and for those unable to visit we can arrange photographs.

If any of your readers would care to get in touch, either by mail or e-mail then we would be glad to offer assistance.

IAN C ALEXANDER
Organiser
The War Research Society
27 Courtway Avenue
Maypole
Birmingham
B14 4PP
0121 430 5348
battletour@aol.com

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Join young, friendly bunch for rambles

THE Shropshire Young Ramblers (ages 20s to 30s) are a friendly bunch of people who enjoy the countryside.

We undertake a variety of walks all over Shropshire and into Wales, ranging from short and flat to the exciting Welsh mountains. The calories burned during every walk are easily put back on with the visit to a café after for tea and cake. Our next walk is a nine-mile route climbing through the remains of Snailbeach lead mines, continuing onto the open hill side and Stiperstones ridge.

After taking in the stunning landscape of exposed rocky tors, the walk drops down and returns along the green lanes. There will be a visit to a fantastic pub at the end.

For more information visit **www.syr.org.uk** or e-mail **syr.update@ gmail.co.uk**

VERITY GRAY, Shropshire Young Ramblers

So grateful to toddlers

ON behalf of Barnardo's, I'd like to say a big thank you to all the toddlers who took part in one of our Big Toddle events in 2012. They raised £3,682.12 to help fund our vital work with under-fives and their families.

Nurseries, play groups and parents all got involved in organising events and helping little ones to dress up as superheroes.

To take part in this year's Big Toddle visit **www.bigtoddle.co.uk** or call 0800 008 7005.

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Barnardo's Midlands

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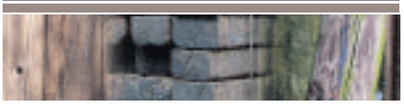

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Concerns over 170 jobs after takeover

THERE are mounting concerns that 170 Welshpool jobs at Shimizu Industry UK could move over the border after the Welsh Government's Businesses Minister said it was a "difficult time of uncertainty" for workers.

Shimizu, an injection moulding company taken over last week by Telford-based DENSO Manufacturing UK, has launched a review of its operations.

Staff claim they have been left in the dark despite reassurances from the new mother company, and now local politicians have been informed that the fight to keep the company in Welshpool has been taken up by the Government.

In a letter to local Assembly Member Russell George, Edwina Hart said: "I understand that some 170 people are employed at the Welshpool site and realise this must be a very difficult time of uncertainty for them.

"My officials are in contact with the company and we will offer any support possible in order to retain the site at Welshpool. We will use all means at our disposal during the consultation to influence a favourable outcome."

Both Mr George and Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, have made contact with the new owners.

Cancer charity cleans up thanks to car wash event

VOLUNTEERS armed with buckets and sponges managed to raise more than £500 for charity after a morning of car washing.

Beverley Roberts, 39, from Welshpool, organised the car wash at the town's fire station as part of a bid to raise money for Children With Cancer UK. More than 100 cars were washed in the space of two-and-a-half hours and a cake sale and raffle were also held.

The event raised £523, taking Miss Roberts' total donations past the £750 mark.

Miss Roberts plans to run the London Marathon in April this year to raise cash for the charity after being inspired by two youngsters affected by cancer.

by Graham Breeze

She said: "This year's inspirational characters are two young men whom have overcome leukaemia and cancer – Jack Owen and Corbin Bowen."

Corbin, 16, is in remission after suffering from cancer in the eye. He carried the standard in the town's Remembrance Sunday parade last year.

Miss Roberts said: "I am raising money for children who have had cancer and to celebrate that people have got through it and have overcome it.

Exhausted

"We had 15 young firefighters and instructors cleaning the cars. We were washing cars from 10am until 12.30pm and we only stopped because everyone was so exhausted. There must have been more than 100 cars that were queuing for a wash."

She said during the day a lot of families stopped by to buy a cakes and have a go at the raffle for a special marathon cake.

"It was an amazing day," she said. "It brought people together and helped raise awareness of the cause. It shows we care about the children."

Miss Roberts said she has been training hard which includes running along the roads around Welshpool."

If anyone would like to make a donation, they can visit Miss Roberts' Just Giving Page at http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/BevRoberts

Young firefighters Chloe Howe, Jessica Davies, Beverley Roberts, of the fundraising team raising awareness of fighting cancer, and young firefighter Keely Howe.

Call for more 20mph zones

MORE 20mph zones should be introduced in built-up areas of Powys to protect children, a politician has said.

Joyce Watson, Mid & West Wales AM, said that while Powys was leading the way in the number of 20mph zones outside schools, she wanted other to follow suit.

In Montgomeryshire, Banw County Primary School, near Welshpool, has a 60mph limit outside, while Buttington and Trewern Primary has a 40mph limit. Llandysilio Church in Wales School, in Four Crosses, near Welshpool, has a 40mph limit.

Mrs Watson said: "We know from safety campaigns and TV adverts what a vital difference a reduction from 30mph to 20 mph makes – a person hit by a car travelling at 20mph has around a 95 per cent chance of survival. That falls to 80 per cent at 30mph, 50 per cent at 35mph and just 10 per cent at 40mph."

The Welsh Assembly has pumped £11.5 million into developing more 20mph zones.

History of society in new book

A BOOK which charts the history of the Welshpool Pantomime Company has been released to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the group being launched.

The company was first set up on February 6, 1963, and it went on to produce nine pantomimes in the town between 1963 and 1972.

The story of the society has been chronicled into a book to mark the occasion which has been written and compiled by Alan Crowe.

The book, entitled *Oh Yes It Is*, is available for £9.95 from the Tourist Information Centre.

Copies of the book are also available at Flaunt It in Cumberland Place or Number Fourteen in Broad Street.

Carnival comeback as date is earmarked

WELSHPOOL'S Carnival is to make a comeback – just a year after it was cancelled.

The carnival, which regularly draws thousands of people to the town's streets and Maesydre Recreation Ground, was called off last year after organisers failed to agree a date because of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Welshpool Town Council has now confirmed the carnival will go ahead on May 27.

Robert Robinson, town clerk, said there would be a parade from the Berriew Street Car Park, while the actual carnival event will be held at Maes y Dre as usual.

Last year's cancellation was caused because organisers failed to secure a free weekend in the town's busy summer schedule.

It is usually held on the last Monday in May, which is traditionally a bank holiday, but last year the spring bank holiday was switched to June 4 for the jubilee.

Organisers agreed to cancel the 2012 event after it also clashed with a celebration at nearby Powis Castle.

More details on this year's carnival are expected to be released in the coming weeks, organisers said today.

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20 years and still going strong

Earthlink opened over 20 years ago, mainly selling clothes, jewellery and incense. Over the years we have added many other lines.

We have also sub-let to tattooists and piercers in the past. In 2001 Beverley completed a piercing course and has been offering body piercing ever since.

John opened the fancy dress shop four and a half years ago but then went back to work leaving Beverley to look after both shops. To make life easier the businesses were moved into one premises.

In October last year we discovered Totally Wicked E-cigs.

There are many advantages to using E-cigs rather than smoking tobacco. One of the main reasons is that it is more sociable, not giving off any offensive odour and also works out a lot cheaper.

John is now back working in the shop full-time so is available to give advice and has samples for people to try.

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Food festival organisers cancel this year's event

by Graham Breeze

THE organisers of the Welsh Food Festival have announced it is taking a year off, but will return in 2014.

For the past seven years, the festival has been hosted by the Thomas family in the magnificent gardens and grounds of their home, Glansevern Hall, near Welshpool.

It has become one of the largest food and drink festivals in Wales and the borders which has grown, year-on-year, to include live cookery demonstrations, local musical entertainment; activities for children and attracted celebrities like TV chef Bryn Williams, Welsh chef Dudley Newbury and weather presenter Sian Lloyd.

Last year, Neville and Jenny Thomas announced their intention to retire and sell Glansevern Hall. The property is still for sale, but festival organisers are optimistic it will continue under new ownership in 2014.

Indebted

"The festival has grown from strength to strength under the caring and watchful eyes of Neville and Jenny Thomas and we are indebted to the family for hosting this wonderful festival at their home for so many years," said Bernard Harris, chairman of the Welsh Food Festival.

The festival has become a real favourite for producers with many describing it as 'the best in Wales'. Last year, it attracted a record number of stalls and over 6,000 visitors.

Mr Harris said: "Over the years the Welsh Food Festival has flourished and developed its own unique brand which is recognised and cherished by producers and visitors alike. It has also been supported by many local volunteers who have all played an important role in making it a great event.

"We look forward to working with everyone again and welcoming them back in 2014," he added.

Bric-a-brac up for grabs

MEMBERS of the Welshpool Methodist Church have been busy raising funds for the upkeep of the church. Members hold a coffee morning every Monday from 9am to noon. Laying out bric-a-brac are, from left, Pat Pritchard, David Evans and Pat Jones.

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Glittering ceremony designed to honour winning businesses

THE OSWESTRY & Border Chronicle Business Awards 2013 are officially launched today as we search for the very best in business across our circulation region.

We want to celebrate the rich resource of skills and people who thrive and prosper in today's challenging marketplace. Launched in association with Oswestry Chamber of Commerce the awards will be held in conjunction with the Lion Quays Waterside Resort.

by Graham Breeze

A glittering awards ceremony will be held at the resort on Wednesday, May 1 when finalists will be competing for nine major trophies.

Whether employing a handful of staff or a workforce of hundreds, whether turning over thousands of pounds or millions of pounds, operating in a new service sector or a long established area of manufacturing, or an individual, we want to hear from you.

The key ingredient is that your business must be mainly or wholly based in The Chronicle circulation area.

Delighted

All the lucky finalists, together with our sponsors and other representatives from the business community, will enjoy hospitality at the Lion Quays Resort in May when the winners will be announced and awards presented.

Graham Breeze, The Chronicle's associate editor said he was delighted that the resort had again agreed to host the event and that the Chamber of Commerce was continuing to be involved.

"The Chronicle celebrated its second birthday in March and this continuing partnership emphasises the regard in which the newspaper is held by the business community," he said.

The awards have been welcomed by the Chamber of Commerce. Martin Anderson, chairman, said he was again looking forward to helping plan the awards scheme. This is a really good chance for businesses to gain recognition and as a chamber we are delighted to be involved.

"Backing the Independent Retailer Award really fits well with the very economically important small independent shop business culture in either Oswestry or Welshpool," he added. "Hopefully this will encourage them to thrive and develop."

Lyn Pearson, marketing and events manager at the Lion Quays said: "We are again pleased to be able to support and host the Chronicle Business Awards in association with Chamber of Commerce.

"Last year we were proud to be able to host Oswestry's first major business awards event, which was a massive success. Holding the event at the Lion Quays gives us the opportunity to showcase the outstanding facilities that we have available."

Last year's award winners, from left, Shane Parr from the Stonehouse Brewery, Zoe Farry, from Northern Industrial Battery Services, Gary Robinson from GWR Fastners, Toby Gray from Fragile Planet, Trevor and Jenny Pervin from The Gift Experience.

Which category will you go for?

●Best Online Business
Sponsored by Morris Cook

Companies must have been operating since at least February 1, 2011 to enter this category. Businesses will need to show how they identified a niche in the market place, adopted a relevant marketing strategy, have installed a first class customer service policy and have plans for sustainable future development.

●Best Small Business
Sponsored by Lanyon Bowdler

The award will go to a small business, up to 10 employees, demonstrating a high level of success in its sector. It should be able to illustrate a competitive advantage and have plans for future expansion, including growing market share. Innovative, forward thinking and progressive are the most apt labels for the winner.

●Community Champion
Sponsored by Lion Quays Waterside Resort

The judges are looking for a business that displays a real commitment to corporate social responsibility and can demonstrate the positive impact this has had on their neighbourhood. This may include staff working voluntarily on local projects and evidence must be given on how this benefited employees and the community.

●Young Business of the Year
Sponsored by Turner Peachey

Businesses less than five years old at February 1, 2013 can enter this category. They will need to demonstrate dynamic leadership, innovative product/service development and a robust marketing strategy, have achieved a tangible level of success and demonstrate a clear and deliverable vision for the future.

●Innovation award
Sponsored by The Pickstock Group

This award is open to any company that has developed a new idea, product or way of operating which is completely different. The judges will expect to see the impact this has had on the business performance, probably involving new technologies, and be confident of future plans.

●Customer Service award
Sponsored by Aubrey Kirkham Funeral Directors

Businesses entering this category need to illustrate their commitment to, and achievement of, outstanding customer service. Everything an organisation does to win, satisfy and retain customers will be considered.

●Young Business Entrepreneur
Sponsor The Charlotte Hartey Foundation

The judges are looking for an individual aged between 16-30 on February 1, 2013 who has been in business for a minimum of 12 months. Entrants will need to demonstrate that they have a robust marketing plan, have achieved a tangible level of success and can demonstrate a clear vision for future development.

●Business of the Year
Sponsored by Oswestry & Border Chronicle

The judges are looking for an established, successful business that has displayed an outstanding performance and become an example of best practice in the region. The winning company will combine inspirational leadership with a dedicated workforce, creative marketing with a smart use of new technologies, product or service innovation with a first class commitment to customer service.

●Independent Retailer Of The Year
Sponsor Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

Open to independent retailers exclusively, the businesses will be required to show how they have performed over the past 12 months ending February 1, 2013. They will need to demonstrate they have understood the need of shoppers and how they have responded; maintained high standards including first class customer service and shown commitment to the community; have displayed innovation that sets them apart from their competition.

ENTRY FORM

CHRONICLE BUSINESS CLUB AWARDS 2013
in association with Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

Category.....

Company name.....

Company address.....

.....

.....

Postcode.....

Name of contact.....

Contact's phone numbers.....

Contact's email.....

COMPANY INFORMATION

Date of formation.....

Number of employees.....

Turnover for last financial year, including net trading profit.....

Brief production of products/services (max 20 words)

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please attach this entry form for each submission (printed on A4 sheets one side only, max. 500 words). Please note: a new entry form must be completed for each category you enter.

Supported by Lion Quays Waterside Resort, Moreton, near Oswestry

How your company can enter

THE competition, which is free to take part in, is open to all companies and organisations based in the distribution/circulation area of Oswestry & Border Chronicle. Whether trading in Oswestry, Welshpool or any of the surrounding villages we want to hear from you.

Decide which category or categories you would like to enter and check the criteria on this page.

Write your entry using A4 paper written on one side only up to a maximum of 500 words, explaining why your business deserves to win the award for that particular category or categories you are entering.

Attach a new entry form to your written submission for each category you enter.

Send your entry or entries as hard copies to: Business Club Awards 2013, Oswestry & Border Chronicle, 14 Salop Road, Oswestry SY11 7NU.

Or you can scan the entry form and email it with your entry of not more than 500 words to awards@oswestrychronicle.co.uk or enter online by going to www.oswestrychronicle.com/business-awards. Entries must be received by the close of business on Friday, March 8, 2013.

No business may enter more than three categories in total. Sponsors cannot enter their own category.

What happens next?

Judging of the entries will take place soon after the closing date. The judging panel will consist of representatives from Oswestry & Border Chronicle, Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, the sponsors and an independent adjudicator.

The judging panel will select the finalists and winner in each category.

All finalists will be notified by the end of March and the line-up will be revealed in the Oswestry & Border Chronicle before the awards night.

Each finalist will receive free places to the awards evening, with the option to purchase a limited number of extra seats.

For more information call 01691 668094.

Resort hosts awards

LION QUAYS Waterside Resort, near Oswestry, is a renowned hotel and wedding venue, but also boasts an impressive country club and award-winning spa.

Lion Quays will host the business awards ceremony. The winners will be announced at an evening of celebration to be held at Lion Quays on Wednesday, May 1.

This will include a drinks reception, three-course meal and the awards ceremony, courtesy of the Lion Quays. Runners-up will receive a certificate and winners receive a trophy.

There will be extensive coverage of the awards event in the Oswestry & Border Chronicle.

The formula for relaxation at Lion Quays is simple, individually-designed bedrooms, an award-winning spa with snow cave, top-class therapists, a 72-station Technogym and bespoke standards of service which surprise and delight.

Lion Quays Spa was awarded a five-out-of-five bubble rating from The Good Spa Guide. As well as a new treatment menu offering a wide range of signature treatments, it is also home to the UK's first Decleor Spa Shop.

Imagine a hotel where you can arrive by boat at a mooring on the picturesque Llangollen canal, or by road from anywhere in the Midlands.

Offering guests a choice of restaurants – from a family-friendly traditional waterside bar and grill, to an intimate contemporary brasserie with outside dining terrace.

The Lion Quays Resort at Oswestry.

Whether you're visiting Lion Quays to celebrate your wedding, dine al fresco in the choice of restaurants, attend a conference, workout in the gym, visit the country club or relax in the spa, you'll be glad you found the resort. See www.lionquays.co.uk

NEWS Tel: 01691 668094

Three are slightly hurt in car crash

ONE CAR overturned and another was found in a field after a collision on a road in Mid Wales – leaving three people with minor injuries.

Two women and one man were treated at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital following the accident between a red Fiat Punto and a white Renault Kangoo on the A458 close to Llangadfan, near Llanfair Caereinion, at about 3.20pm on Saturday.

All three were allowed home by Saturday evening, according to police.

No-one has been arrested and police are not treating the incident as suspicious.

A spokesperson for the Welsh Ambulance service said: "One had rib injuries, one patient had neck and collarbone injuries and one had neck and spinal injuries."

Firefighters attended the scene and made the vehicle safe. A spokesman for Dyfed-Powys Police said one car was found on its roof and that another had ended up in a field, although it was not yet clear how the collision had occurred.

He added the incident did not cause the road to be closed.

Anyone who witnessed the incident should call Dyfed-Powys Police on 101.

Osfest to fund £2m bone cancer centre

by Chrissy Symmons

TICKET sales at Osfest-Break For The Border, featuring chart-topping boyband JLS and X Factor winner James Arthur will go towards a campaign for a new £2 million bone cancer centre in the county.

Five pounds from each ticket sold on promotional days will be handed to Oswestry Bone Cancer Centre Appeal.

The festival has already sold out its Early Buy tickets, and day tickets for the festival at Oswestry Showground on May 24 to 27 start at £34.50.

The announcement has been greeted with delight by charity campaigners.

The bone cancer centre appeal was launched in December last year and aims to raise £500,000 towards a new bone cancer centre at Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen. So far more than £4,700 has been raised through online donations.

Hoped

The centre will include en-suite rooms, treatment and relaxation areas and a garden reflection space.

Carly Jackson, event director for Osfest, said: "We hope we will be able to raise awareness for the charity."

Gwilym Owen OBE, appeal director, said: "This is fantastic news. We are delighted that Osfest 2013 has come onboard to support our Bone Cancer Centre Appeal. The festival targets the age group where bone cancer most often strikes."

To donate to the centre appeal text 70070 starting the message with OBCC78 and a donation amount.

To donate online visit www.justgiving.com/Oswestry-bone-cancer-centre

More than four times as many tickets have been sold compared to last year, delighted organisers have revealed.

Almost 1,800 tickets have been sold compared to 400 tickets this time last year.

Ms Jackson said: "We have done a comparison of ticket sales with last year and they have gone up dramatically."

Schools win award

Back, Meadows teacher Margaret Williams, head teacher of Holy Trinity Nick Turner and Meadows head Karen Morris, centre, Hannah Sadler and Owain Payne from the Holy Trinity School, front, Richard Jandrell and Caitlin Costello, from Meadows School.

HOLY Trinity C of E Primary and The Meadows Primary Schools in Oswestry have been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of their work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas.

Holy Trinity and The Meadows have worked closely together to forge strong links with schools in Sri Lanka through the British Council's Connecting Classrooms Project.

Computer tips to help jobseekers in villages

HELP IS at hand for those struggling to find work in a village near Oswestry.

A new project has been set up to teach computer skills in the former mining villages of Weston Rhyn, St Martins and Gobowen.

David Boyce, of the 3 Parishes Big Local project, applied for funding from the Shropshire Council local joint committee.

On February 25 the first IT session will be held at the Weston Rhyn Institute, from noon until 2pm.

Mr Boyce, said: "Shropshire Council's local joint committee allocated a grant of £600 to put a package of help together.

"Increasingly people have to go online to look for jobs, to build up their CVs and to fill in application forms."

"That is all well and good for those used to office-based work but people in other trades may not have the skills or even a computer to help them to do this."

"The idea is to organise sessions in community buildings to give people the chance to use computers and to learn the skills that they need."

Anyone interested in taking part in the IT sessions at Weston Rhyn should contact Mr Boyce on 07749 786544 for more details.

Railways, broadband and future of schools on committee agenda

WORK BY railway enthusiasts, broadband access and the future of local schools will all be discussed at a public meeting in a village in Shropshire in the next few weeks.

People who attend the next meeting of Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martins and Weston Rhyn Local Joint Committee will hear about the latest work carried out by volunteers from Cambrian Heritage Railways. A progress report will also be given on progress to create an 'all-through' school at Rhyn Park in St Martins, near Oswestry.

The meeting will be held at All Saints Church Hall in Gobowen, near Oswestry, on February 26 at 7pm.

During the evening there will be information about access to broadband and information will also be provided for those wishing to stand as candidates in the forthcoming county, town and parish councils in May.

More than a dozen organisations and groups will find out how much grant money they will be given from the LJC funding pot.

Shropshire councillor David Lloyd, LJC chairman, said: "We are pleased to have been able to assist and offer support to a wide range of groups and organisations that play an important role in our communities.

"These have included help for those working with young people, older people, community groups and special interest groups.

"Support for the Oswestry Area First Responders helped them to purchase vital kit for new recruits, St Martins Centre Book Box Scheme encourages reading, and we also provided funding to support Jubilee events in the villages."

The LJC has worked with parish councils and others to introduce the pedestrian crossing in Gobowen, a local version of meals on wheels and community fun and sporting events.

For more information about the meeting, contact (01691) 677301.

Competition for inventors

THE hunt is on to find the best young budding inventors in Shropshire.

A design and technology tournament will be held for schools at The Marches School in Morda Road, Oswestry, on March 8.

It has been organised by Borderland Rotary Club for teams of four students with an interest in design and technology.

Youngsters will compete to design and build a model which fits a brief to be revealed to them by Rotary members on the day.

Working against the clock, the teams will need to communicate well together to get organised. Points will be awarded for the planning and preparation as well as the final result.

Once the youngsters have assembled their models they will be tested and judged. There will be three age categories – 11 to 13 year olds, 14 to 16 year olds and over 16s. For more information on the club visit **www.borderlandrotary.co.uk**

Girl's play area petition pays off

A 12-YEAR-OLD who campaigned to get exercise equipment in her village has now seen the equipment installed.

Imogen Bickford, who lives in Morda near Oswestry, drew up a petition calling for the items after seeing similar ones installed in Cae Glas Park in Oswestry.

The Marches School student, from Parker Leighton estate, collected 116 signatures which she then presented to Oswestry Rural Parish Council.

The idea was brought before the St Oswald & Llanymynech Local Joint Committee panel which agreed to give £1,000 cash for equipment.

Shropshire Council's Outdoor Recreation Team also gave £2,000 towards the venture.

The new equipment provided by Shropshire business, Ray Parry Playground Services, has now been installed and is ready for villagers to use. The company offered a reduced price so that there was enough cash for three pieces of equipment.

Mr Parry said: "We are a local company based in Shrewsbury and have been in business for about 20 years.

Pleased

"We support Shropshire schools and the local authority as much as we can. We gave a discount because the young people helped to raise the money."

Imogen said: "We are very pleased with the new equipment in the park and it's great that it was fitted so quickly."

Sarah Longville, The Marches head teacher, said: "I am so proud of Imogen for what she has achieved. The new equipment will benefit so many members of the local community, many of which are students at The Marches.

"This was a personal project Imogen pursued and the end result clearly shows just how much can be achieved with determination and commitment.

"Well done Imogen."

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow said: "Since the equipment was installed it has been well used and has enhanced the play area greatly. It has also increased the exercise options for youngsters on the area.

"This shows it doesn't matter how old you are if you want to make it happen you can make it happen.

"Hopefully Imogen will inspire other young people to think what they can do."

Having a great time in the Morda teen play area are Imogen Bickford, Ray Parry from Ray Parry Playgrounds and Councillor Joyce Barrow.

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Get walking plea to raise hospice cash

A CHARITY official is urging people to pull on their walking boots and take part in a sponsored walk.

Hope House Children's Hospice, based in Morda near Oswestry, will be holding its annual 10-mile sponsored walk along Llangollen Canal on March 3. The route will run from Trevor Basin at the aqueduct to Chirk.

The route travels along the canal revealing some of the local scenery.

Walkers are urged to meet at 10am with maps at the ready for a 10.30am start.

Rachel Jones, fundraiser for Hope House Children's Hospice, said: "This event is now in its third year and is proving more popular than ever.

"The route reveals some beautiful scenery overlooking the Dee Valley going from Trevor Basin to Chirk Bank and back along the canal path.

"There are some challenges along the way as walkers brave two high aqueducts and two long tunnels. This means torches are a must.

Quickly

"The walk starts and finishes at the Telford Inn at Trevor Basin where they serve lovely Sunday lunches to finish off your day.

"Places are filling up quickly so to avoid missing out please make sure to register soon."

All children must be accompanied by an adult. The canal path is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs.

Registration is free but places are limited so people are advised to register early.

Information packs containing sponsorship forms will then be sent out.

Ms Jones said: "We are asking participants to raise as much in sponsorship as possible to help Hope House Children's Hospice."

To register for the walk or for more information call the fundraising office on (01691) 671671 or visit **www.hopehouse.org.uk** to register online.

Launch for first festival

AROUND 50 invited guests attended the launch last week of this May's first Whittington Music Festival.

Among the guests at the Wynnstay Hotel were High Sheriff John Abram and the Mayor and Mayoress of Oswestry.

Sponsoring businesses were represented by Tudor Griffiths, Richard Burbidge, Kate Woodhead and Richard Hughes.

The evening included a short recital.

Author will be speaker

A LOCAL author will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Good Companions club in Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry.

The club meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 2pm at The Village Institute.

Writer Gavin Rees Jones will be the guest at the club's next meeting which takes place on February 26 and will give a talk to members.

All are welcome.

PURE BEAUTY 01691 668094

Dedication pays off for salon staff marking event

Advertisement feature

IT'S purebeauty's fourth birthday this month and it has been a very busy and good four years since the salon opened in Church Street, Welshpool.

The salon is developing, but it hasn't come without a lot of hard work and dedication to the business.

Sarah Rowlands and her team have worked long hours, with late-night opening until 8pm proving popular, together with the high standard of customer care from all therapists at purebeauty.

During the past four years the salon won Best Start Up Business at the 2009 Powys Business Awards and owner Sarah Rowlands was nominated as the 'Best Young Entrepreneur' at the 2010 Powys Business Awards.

Offers

She was also chosen as one of the top 25 Rising Stars in Wales by Insider Business Magazine and the company was shortlisted for' Best Small Business' at last year's Oswestry Chronicle Business Awards.

"I love promoting the salon and it's organic products and treatments," said Sarah. "The salon has a Facebook page Purebeauty Welshpool Ltd which has recently been redesigned and members are increasing day by day, I post new offers, beauty news and photos to keep members up to date with what's going on.

"We also love our twitter page @purebeautysarah where we run competitions now and again to win free treatments. We also have the more traditional brochures, leaflets and newspaper articles which still have their role to play in raising the profile of the salon.

"I also write a monthly column for the 'MyWelshpool' website where I bring readers up to date with my life and all the salon news. I really enjoy this and it's another aspect of the business I would like to build on. Our work on the web and client recommendations have brought in many new clients."

Back Jess Kinsey, Kirstey Fuller and Cheryl Ball and front, Sarah Rowlands outside purebeauty in Welshpool.

Work is continuing to develop new relationships in the future and Sarah announced that the salon will be working in conjunction with the Lake Vyrnwy Hotel and Spa, on their bridal bookings throughout the summer.

"Finally, I'm off on a trip to New York in April to the biggest beauty show in the world," said Sarah. "I can't wait to see what new treatments are on offer and keep in touch to see what ideas I bring back."

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Programme is unveiled for youth music festival

THE programme for Oswestry's annual youth music festival has been unveiled by organisers.

by Graham Breeze

Oswestry Youth and Music Festival 2013 will be taking place in the town from February 28 until March 3.

The event, which has been held in the town for the past 35 years, will see a number of trophies and certificates handed out to this year's most talented competitors.

Christ Church and the Methodist Church, both in Chapel Street, will be the venues for the event, which is expected to draw people in from Shropshire, North Wales and beyond.

Dorothy Haughton, one of the organisers, said: "The programme has been drawn up. The venues have been booked. The adjudicators have been booked. The stewards and clerks and announcers have all put their names down on the roster."

She said at 10am on February 28 percussion groups from four primary schools will perform at Oswestry Methodist Church. At about 10.40am secondary schools will then perform. By 11.30am junior solo singers will be taking to the stage.

On March 2, at 2pm there will be music by beginner soloists aged nine years old and under.

At 3pm the drumkit solos begin and Richard Christie will play Bo Diddley by Tween and his own piece Solo No 2 to bring this part of the festival to an end.

Mrs Haughton said: "In between we have had pianists, brass players, woodwind players, string players and vocalist performing alone or in duets, ensembles, bands and choirs.

Do come to Holy Trinity in the afternoon of March 1 for the youth choirs."

The festival will finish on Sunday when junior and senior winners compete for the Oswestry Town Council Gull Award and the Oswestry Town Council Cup.

Town mayor Councillor Martin Bennett will then present the trophies.

Mrs Haughton said: "In a time when youngsters are often derided it is staggering to think of the amount of time and effort that had gone into producing performances so polished, so effortless."

Group is looking to town for inspiration

OSWESTRY could become the inspiration for umbrellas, notebooks, and other merchandise being sold by an art project that has already won national acclaim.

The Oswestry-based Project Group has been responsible for public works of art across Shropshire and beyond and had its design for a jubilee mug taken up by a national crockery manufacturer.

Now the group, which helps people with or recovering from mental health issues, wants to launch a commercial, on-line venture called Designs in Mind

It is asking Oswestry Town Council for £3,000 to start the project at its studio in Cross Street.

Co-ordinator, Jo Davis said Designs in Mind had been set up to establish a more commercially viable retail arm.

Items already produced include silk scarves, mugs, coasters and cards.

She added: "Products sold well and we have had an offer from Designed in England to sell from its website."

She said the Project Group wants to set up a website to handle sales and produce four more items of stock. The designs will be inspired by the town and will be launched as the 'Oswestry Collection'.

Students poised to explore the Big Apple

A GROUP of students from Oswestry will be able to take a bite of the Big Apple later this month – four months after they were supposed to fly to America.

More than 100 students from The Marches School will shortly be embarking on a voyage across the Atlantic, as they take part in the school's biennial trip to New York City.

The trip had to be rescheduled because following horrific weather conditions which hit New York in October.

The group of 117 staff and students will depart on February 18, eager to explore life Stateside.

During their five-day stay in New York, students will soak up as much of the culture as physically possible, visiting iconic locations and landmarks such as Central Park, the Museum of Modern Art, the Natural History Museum, Grand Central Station, 5th Avenue, Ground Zero, Statue of Liberty, The Empire State Building and Top of The Rock.

Ruth Lloyd, associate deputy headteacher at The Marches School, said: "This is the sixth time this trip has been run by the school, and each time it has grown and grown in popularity."

October's scheduled trip had to be postponed after Superstorm Sandy hit New York.

More than 80 schoolchildren from other schools in Shropshire were stranded in New York after their home flights were grounded by the storm.

Flights back to the UK were cancelled for pupils from Lakelands School in Ellesmere, Idsall School in Shifnal, and Priory School in Shrewsbury.

Hannah Battams, Ed Rogers, Rhianne Lloyd, Luke Mackenzie and Georgie Ridge prepare for their trip.

Council grant for window sought

THE MAYOR of Oswestry, Martin Bennett, is calling on the town council to contribute towards the cost of a stained glass window at Oswestry School to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its chapel.

Councillors will be asked on Monday to consider making a donation from the council's grants budget. School governors are raising £20,000 to provide a stained glass window in the chapel.

Pupils have already become involved in drawing up designs for the art project, which will be based on events in school life over the past 150 years.

An Old Oswestrians London Dinner in aid of the window appeal will be held at the Caledonian Club in the capital on May 17 and other fundraising events are under way.

Councillor Bennett said: "In view of the connections between the school and the council I should like to see the town council make a grant to the project."

Back to basics

COMPUTER courses are being held at The Qube in Oswald Road, Oswestry, to learn the basics of Photoshop on February 19 at 2pm. Sessions cost £10, book on (01691) 656882.

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HALF TERM 01691 668094

Children can feed the lambs at farm

Advertisement feature

TO CELEBRATE the first half term of the year lamb feeding starts at Park Hall Countryside Experience at Oswestry today, Thursday.

Each year the activity of bottle feeding lambs has become more and more popular at this national award winning farm, so last year a huge lamb feeding centre was built to accommodate the number of visitors wanting to take part.

In 2013 new seating is being added to the centre for extra comfort.

The star attractions, of course, are the cute and cuddly cade lambs which are due to arrive soon on the farm. The lambs need to be fed at regular intervals so visitors to Park Hall get the chance to feed them twice a day.

It's a really enjoyable experience for young and old alike and afterwards you get the chance to stroke and pet the lambs.

Gary Hamer (left) and Roger Powell (right) on feeding duty at Park Hall Farm near Oswestry

Action-packed

In addition to the lamb feeding, Park Hall is getting ready for an action-packed week of interactive activities which will keep the kids happy throughout their visit.

Each day kids can groom a pony, hand-milk a cow, hold gorgeous rabbits or lead the magnificent heavy horses across the stable yard. 'Pig Racing' will also be held once or twice a day weather permitting.

If its exhilarating fun that the kids are looking for, then Park Hall fits the bill, with two huge indoor play barns, a Science Illusion Zone, lots of outdoor adventure play, and fabulous kids driving activities.

The barrel train will be ready for action, along with the kids' land rovers and driving school.

This all weather farm visitor attraction, which has so many of its activities under cover, promises to be a big hit for all the family.

And there's more to come soon with the opening of the fantastic new 'Demon Drop Slide,' the staff can't wait to try it out.

During half term Park Hall is open daily from February 15-24, from 10am to 4pm.

Admission is £7.45, concessions £6.95. Family (2+2) £29.

For further information contact Park Hall on 01691 671123 or visit the website www.parkhallfarm.co.uk

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NEWS

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Poet will feature as town marks war

THE LIFE and work of war poet Wilfred Owen must pay a major part when Oswestry marks the 100th anniversary of the conflict next year, councillors have said.

Owen was born in the town on 18 March, 1893, and was killed days before the conflict ended in 1918.

Oswestry Town Council is now looking at how to commemorate the anniversary of the outbreak of the war and wants the memory of its famous son to play a role.

Councillors discussed the issue at their meeting on Monday. Adding the war poet's name to the town's war memorial is one option that has been suggested.

Councillor Owen Jones wants to see Wilfred Owen included in an inscription on the memorial gates to Cae Glas Park. He said one of Shropshire's most famous sons should be remembered on the official plaques.

Village venue for Zumba fun

ZUMBA classes are starting in a village near Oswestry.

Classes will take place in Ruyton-XI-Towns Village Hall on Thursdays from 7.30pm until 8.30pm.

It costs £4 per session and everyone is welcome.

There is a Zumba Gold pace for older people.

Families turned away from sold-out Santa railway days

AN OSWESTRY rail group's Santa train services proved so popular that they had to reluctantly turn away some families, bosses have revealed.

Members of Cambrian Heritage Railways, who ran festive trains from their Oswestry and Llynclys bases every weekend in the run-up to Christmas, say the high level of interest in the Santa specials has boosted their ambitions to reopen the line. They said the Santa trains enjoyed a bumper number of visitors at Christmas.

The group's internet webmaster Martin Boland said: "We feel a combination of improved timing of publicity and branding, double sided flyers for both venues, Facebook, Twitter and our active website all contribute to the pleasing success of this year's Christmas events."

by Graham Breeze

Heather Gallagher from the group's communications team added: "We recognise we are still a small operation, but a combination of value for money and friendly atmosphere mean that visitors are returning."

Booked

Andy Vance, the commercial manager, said the quality of the experience for children and families related by word of mouth during December played a significant part, even leading to disappointment for some at Llynclys where over 200 were accommodated on December 23, with others turned away who had not booked.

He said the same thing happened at Halloween when an immensely popular event led to record numbers packing trainss.

Rail group bosses said publicity about the group and what is was planning had been improved thanks to a more concerted effort by the hardcore of some 30 Cambrian volunteers as well as some new members.

Malcolm Davidson, general manager, added: "It is the regulars that make things happen, but we now have a firmer strategy and more belief in ourselves."

To learn more and learn how to join the railway, visit www.cambrianrailways.com

Gran steps up crossing fight

WORRYING speeding figures prove it is more important than ever for a zebra crossing to be installed on a busy road near a Shropshire primary school, a safety campaigner has said.

Gobowen grandmother Dot Basham says new statistics revealing 1,300 drivers a day break the 30mph limit on the village's St Martins Road show the safety measure must be introduced as a matter of priority.

More than 500 people have now signed petitions organised by Mrs Basham calling for a crossing on the road. Those petitions were passed on to Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council on Wednesday.

Bosses at the Safer Roads Partnership in West Mercia, who have sited a speed van on the road on a regular basis since October 2011, found approximately 1,300 drivers a day are still exceeding 35.4mph on the road.

Mrs Basham said: "The speed of some cars is dreadful and something needs to be done."

Op gives James new lease of life

Dr James Ayres and his daughter Helen Beers

A 79-YEAR-old violinist who has been given a new lease of life after having a mini defibrillator implanted following a heart attack, is thanking the hospital for his care by putting on a concert.

Violin teacher and composer James Ayres, from Gobowen feared that his days of playing music were over as he was so weak following his heart attack he struggled to lift his violin.

Wrexham Maelor Hospital which treated Mr Ayres, then offered him a resynchronization defibrillator - a tiny, battery operated device to help keep his heart beating safely.

"The difference was immediate," he said. "It really has given me a new lease of life.

"I really wanted to do something to say thank you to the hospital."

My Ayres has organised a concert at Alberbury Church on March 15.

Tickets for the evening are £8 for adults, £5 for children or £20 for a family ticket. They are available on the door or by contacting (01691) 652655

NEWS in brief

Annual meeting for senior citizens

THE ANNUAL meeting of Oswestry Senior Citizens club will is tonight, Thursday, at 7pm at the club in Lorne Street.

Social events continue with a dance and social evening, featuring entertainer Richie Jones, on February 21. Doors open at 6pm for a 7.30pm start.

On March 7 there will be an outing to Cheshire Oaks shopping and entertainment venue, near Chester, to include a meal at a restaurant in Mickle Trafford.

The club holds bingo evenings every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Silver award for charity stalwart

A LLANSANTFFRAID woman has been presented with a Silver Kite by the chairman of Powys County Council.

Elizabeth Winifred Ellen Evans of Maesygarreg was given the honour and a Certificate of Appreciation by the chairman of Powys County Council, Cllr Susan McNicholas.

It was in recognition of her hard work for charity and was awarded at her 80th birthday party at Llanfihangel Village Hall.

Transport event

THE Cambrian Heritage Railways group is gearing up for its Heritage Transport Day on April 20 at the Oswestry HQ of the project in Oswald Road.

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FARMING 01691 668094

Farmers urge shoppers to heed quality markings

POULTRY and egg farmers from across Shropshire have urged shoppers to look out for the Red Tractor mark and Lion Egg marks in supermarkets or buy from local producers and butchers to ensure their food is the best of British.

Speaking at a National Farmers' Union Conference at Park Hall near Oswestry on Tuesday, farmers and others in the poultry sector were able to hear the latest news about egg production, broiler chickens and other topics.

With the current furore over horsemeat found in burgers and other meat products, farmers stressed the importance of shoppers ensuring they were buying quality British products.

Mr David Kynaston, who has chicken farms in Shropshire and near Welshpool, said his meat carried the Red Tractor, assured food standards mark.

Understand

"It is something that does not come cheap as we have to fund all the inspections and all the administration that comes with the awarding of the mark. But it means that everything is traceable. I know where each individual chick and the feed comes from and even the driver that takes them away."

"We as farmers have fought hard for the recognition of the Tractor and Lion Mark on eggs. They are symbols that shoppers have come to recognise and understand, yet at least one supermarket now wants to remove the Red Tractor from its shelves."

Wem egg producer, Mr Elwyn Griffiths, of Oaklands Eggs, said the traceability on his farms was equally as important. And he revealed that there were unscrupulous traders operating in the egg business.

"I received an email from a European trader yesterday offering me a wagon load of white eggs from Romania which of course I ignored. But I am sure that there are people that will take up those kind of offers."

"There has been a disconnect recently between the housewife and the food they buy and until now I am not sure they really cared where their food came from. Perhaps now they will look at where the food has come from and realise that if something is too cheap there must be a reason."

Farmers heard from Mr Griffiths, Leon Furlong, of Agro Supply, about poultry shed innovation and Ian Johnson, Poultry Farmer of the Year finalist, on working smarter not harder.

Catherine McLaughlin, NFU animal health and welfare adviser, and Kelly Watson, NFU chief poultry adviser, also updated producers on egg and broiler issues and poultry disease.

Helen Cork, NFU regional poultry adviser, said: "The annual poultry forum run by Oswestry and Shrewsbury NFU brings egg and broiler producers together to find out more about the latest poultry innovations and policy breakthroughs."

Members of Border NFU meeting at Oswestry Rugby Club.

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Legion honours volunteers who help the Poppy Appeal

Claire Rowcliffe fundraising manager, left, with longest serving poppy collector Daphnie Madden and Neil Jenkins, county chairman.

At the presentation, from left, are Daphnie Madden, David Doggett, Colin Cole, Ted Larkins, George Lockhart, Carl Brown and Sid Hallam.

by Graham Breeze

PEOPLE IN Oswestry who have helped to raise money for the poppy appeal, some for almost four decades, have been honoured by the Royal British Legion.

Special poppy badges and certificates were handed out by the Oswestry branch of the Royal British Legion.

The longest serving poppy collector honoured was Daphne Madden, who has been selling poppies for 39 years. Roy Fry, poppy appeal organiser, said times had changed tremendously since Mrs Madden started her volunteer work for the Royal British Legion.

"It is an amazing achievement, being involved with the appeal for almost 40 years," he said.

"When Mrs Madden first started she probably would have been going door to door with out poppies. Now our volunteers in Oswestry no longer go out to people's houses.

"Instead they stand for many hours in the town or our supermarkets taking donations."

Other long service awards went to Mr Ted Larkin BEM for 21 years, Carl Brown for 15 years and David Doggart for 10 years.

Thanks

"An award also went to Mr Sid Hallam from the Oswestrian pub for his work in helping the appeal."

The Royal British Legion branch meets at the Oswestrian.

Mr Fry said: "Thanks must also go to the people of Oswestry. The town has bucked the trend by raising more money than ever this year."

He said in 2011/2012 the branch saw just over £20,000 raised by the public and members, but since September the figure for the coming 12 months is already threatening to smash through the £20,000 barrier, with seven months of fundraising still ahead.

A dance in aid of the poppy appeal would be held at the Pedigree in Oswestry on March 23, featuring the band, Truth, a three course meal and the auction of a special poppy appeal cake. Tickets, £17.50, are available from Mr Fry on (01691) 679260.

Victorian tea party fundraiser

A VICTORIAN-STYLE tea party will raise funds for two causes in Weston Rhyn later this month.

Sandwiches and scones will be served on pretty china plates by volunteers in Victorian costume.

It will be the fourth year that the popular afternoon tea has taken over the village institute.

This year's event on February 23 will run from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

It will raise money for the Weston Rhyn Good Companions and the friends of the village school.

One of the organisers, Mrs Angela Bright, urged those going along to join in the fun by dressing up for the occasion.

"The more people dressed up the better," she said.

Tickets, to include the afternoon tea, are £4 and £2 for children under the age of 10.

Electricals testing tips

A FREE seminar will be held in Oswestry to explain recent changes to requirements for testing portable electrical appliances.

The seminar is being staged by electrical testing experts Megger at City Electrical Factors in Maesbury Road, Oswestry on February 20. It starts at 11am. To book, call (01304) 502236.

Lookalike Elvis will sing for charity

AN ELVIS Presley impersonator will be helping to raise cash for charity in Shropshire

Sheila Nash, from Oswestry, has enlisted the help of Josh Whittall to help her raise cash and awareness of the Motor-Neurone Disease Association.

Ms Nash, 64, is organising the event after one of her family members died from the disease and her 57-year-old-brother, Keith Williams, was diagnosed last year.

She said she wanted to do something positive and raise money towards research.

Ms Nash said Mr Williams and his wife spotted a number of signs of the disease.

"He was diagnosed in February last year," she said. "He had problems, he had a couple of falls and had problems with his shoulder.

"He thought it was a frozen shoulder and it was operated on. Then his speech got a little bit slurred."

The Elvis tribute charity evening will be held at The Pedigree, in Shrewsbury Road, on March 9 at 7.30pm. There will be a Motown Disco during the night.

Mrs Nash said her brother was looking forward to the event.

Tickets for the tribute night cost £10 and include a hot roll supper. Call (01691) 654601 or 07972293813.

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Seven-bed residence in sought-after part of town

An immaculate seven-bedroomed executive style detached home in a desirable part of town is for sale with Woodhead Estates.

Number 34 Upper Well Close, Oswestry, is on the market at a guide price of £389,995.

Accommodation at the detached property comprises an entrance hall, downstairs wc, spacious kitchen/breakfast room with integrated appliances, and door to a utility.

The living room includes a fireplace with living flame gas fire, bay window and patio doors to the rear garden.

There is also a sitting room and separate dining room, both overlooking the front.

On the first floor are five bedrooms, one with ensuite bathroom and another with ensuite shower room, and a family bathroom.

Further stairs rise to the second floor where there are two more bedrooms, one with walk-in storage cupboard, and a bathroom.

To the front, a wide driveway providing ample parking leads to a double garage. The attractive rear garden is mainly laid to lawn and includes two separate patio entertainment areas.

For further information contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 or log on to the website www.woodheadestates.com

Substantial split-level home in large grounds

A deceptively spacious detached split-level bungalow set in nearly a third of an acre of grounds is for sale through Parry Lowarch.

Homelea, Green Lane, Abermule, near Montgomery, is on the market for offers in the region of £272,500.

With oil-fired central heating and double glazing throughout, the three double-bedroomed property includes extensive garaging, parking for numerous vehicles and lovely large gardens.

There is a reception hall, living room, large kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms, superb bathroom with shower, utility, ground floor bedroom four/study and spacious underfloor storage.

For further information contact Parry Lowarch on 01743 343343 or visit www.parrylowarch.co.uk

Spacious bungalow on market with no chain

Number 19 Ambleside Road, Oswestry, is a spacious detached bungalow situated within a few minutes level walking distance of the town centre.

The three-bedroom property is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at a guide price of £159,950 with no chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge/dining room, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms and front and rear gardens and ample parking and a garage.

For further information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk

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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK

Charming rural retreat includes paddocks and workshop

Offering a wealth of exposed beams, Pendalog Farm, near Llanfyllin, is set in about 3.8 acres with wonderful views. There are also paddocks, a detached workshop, office and further rough shed.
Offers around £540,000 are invited for the detached property, which comprises a porch, utility, cloaks/wc, superb breakfast kitchen with Rayburn, dining hall, morning room, lounge with inglenook fireplace, and study/office. Upstairs are three bedrooms, one ensuite, and an extremely spacious family bathroom.

For further information contact Samuel Wood on 01691 659951 or visit www.samuelwood.co.uk

Roomy modern property in picturesque valley setting

A five-bedroom detached property on a generous plot is on the market for only £200,000 with no upward chain. With double glazing and oil-fired central heating, 7 Trem Hirnant, Manafon, stands in the picturesque Rhiew Valley on a small development of seven houses built in 2002. It has an entrance hall, wc, sitting room, snug/study, dining kitchen, utility, master bedroom (ensuite), four further bedrooms, bathroom, driveway parking for three cars, double garage and rear gardens.

For further information contact Halls of Welshpool on 01938 555552 or visit www.hallsgb.com

Smartly presented four-bedroom semi has been extended

Number 3 Whitfield Close, Oswestry is a well presented and extended four-bedroom home in an established area.
The semi-detached property is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at a guide price of £164,995. It has a lounge, dining room, kitchen, family/utility room, four bedrooms (master ensuite), bathroom, good-sized garden, garage, double glazing and gas central heating.

For further information contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk

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Halls 1845

A highly desirable detached barn conversion situated 5 miles from Oswestry Town with an adjoining 1 acre paddock.

- 3 Bedroom (2 With En-Suite)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Located down a quiet country lane
- Oak Fitted Kitchen
- Character Features
- Current EPC Rating D

Owlbrook, Waenwen Farm, Crickheath

Price: £359,950 Contact Oswestry

This three bedroom semi detached family home is situated in a lovely residential area with playing fields to the rear and Oswestry Hill fort a 'stones throw away'.

- 3 Bedroom
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Detached Timber Garage
- Requires Updating
- Close To Countryside
- Current EPC Rating E

Llwyn Road, Oswestry

Price: £112,000 Contact Shrewsbury

A four bedroom detached family home situated in a stunning location with magnificent views of the surrounding countryside and the Ceiriog Valley.

- 4 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens
- CH & DG
- Currrent EPC Rating C

The Woodlands, Dolywern

Price: £239,950 Contact Oswestry

A former chapel and village school offering spacious and adaptable accommodation over three floors with views of the open countryside.

- 5 Bed (3 With En-Suites)
- Character Features
- Contemporary Interiors
- Garden & Ample Parking
- Rural Location
- Current EPC Rating D

Nantmawr Chapel

Price: £350,000 Contact Oswestry

A town house of contemporary design offering light and bright accommodation located a short walk from Oswestry Town Centre.

- 3 Bedroom
- Views Over Oswestry & Hill Fort
- Open Plan Living Accommodation
- Balcony
- Walking Distance To Town
- Current EPC Rating C

The Carriages, Oswestry

Price: £159,950 Contact Oswestry

A deceptively spacious two bedroom 1930's detached bungalow which has been extended to provide a most comfortable family home. The property is situated in a pleasant rural location down a quiet lane with countryside views.

- 2 Bed (Master & En-Suite)
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Detached Garage, Workshop & Parking
- Gardens

Greenways, Dovaston

Price: £185,000 Contact Oswestry

An immaculate extended three double bedroom family home with luxury bathroom and open plan kitchen / dining and family room.

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gardens & Parking
- Viewing Essential

Maes Yr Afon, Llanrhaeadr

Price: £167,500 Contact Oswestry

An ideal investment opportunity with an immediate income.

- Bedroom, En-Suite & Dressing Area
- Lounge With Log Burning Stove
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Village Location

Dolphin Terrace, Llanymynech

Price: £72,000 Contact Oswestry

This NON ESTATE detached and attractive 4 bedroomed home has had only one careful owner since it was built in 2003.

- 4 Bedrooms (Master & En-Suite)
- 3 Reception Rooms
- South Facing Rear Gardens
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Outskirts Of Village
- Overlooking Countryside

Breidden View, Wern, Llanymynech

Price: Offers over £229,995 Contact Oswestry

A Grade II listed property situated in the sought after village of Whittington. Offering character and charm, the property needs to be viewed to be truly appreciated.

- 2 Bedroom
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Gardens
- Parking
- Village Location

Oswestry Road, Whittington

Price: £144,950 Contact Oswestry

A well presented and spacious three bedroom detached home occupying a larger than anticipated corner plot in this popular and sought after residential area

- 3 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens To Three Sides
- Popular Village Location

Fitzgwarine Drive, Whittington

Price: £189,950 Contact Oswestry

A three bedroom semi detached family home situated a short walk from Oswestry Town Centre.

- 3 Bed Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Walking Distance To Town
- Gardens & Parking
- Current EPC Rating D

Brookhouse Road, Oswestry

Price: £119,950 Contact Oswestry

A FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM family home situated in a quiet cul de sac in a popular residential area. The property is warmed by gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing (installed in 2010), conservatory and garage.

- 4 Double Bedrooms (Master & En-Suite)
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Conservatory
- Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating C

Poplar Close, St Martins

Price: £199,950 Contact Oswestry

A deceptively spacious property 'tucked away' off the passing lane, dating back to the late 1800's.

- 4 Double Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms & Conservatory
- Detached Annex
- Garage / Workshop
- Gardens & Parking
- Current EPC Rating D

Trefonen Road, Morda

Price: £299,950 Contact Oswestry

A DETACHED TWO bedroom bungalow situated in a most popular and sought after residential area.

- 2 Bedrooms
- Car Port & Parking
- Open Garden Room
- Double Glazing
- Patio,Terraced & Laid to Lawn Rear Garden

Vyrnwy Road, Oswestry

Price: £129,950 Contact Oswestry

A detached village property with a superb outlook to Whittington Castle, the castle grounds and the Moat.

- 2 Bedroom
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Detached Workshop / Large Store
- Patio Garden
- Car Parking Area

Castle Court Cottage, Whittington

Price: £174,950 Contact Oswestry

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RICS

NEW - NO CHAIN

Berwyn Drive, St. Martins — £189,995

- A spacious and well appointed 2/3 Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow located close to the centre of the popular village of St Martins.
- Kitchen, Living Room and Bathroom together with a Dining Room which alternatively could be used as a ground floor bedroom.
- On the first floor are two further spacious Bedrooms. Externally the property benefits from a good size garden, garaging and off-road parking.
- uPVC double glazing throughout, uPVC gutters and fascia boards and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating

Arddleen, Nr Welshpool — £354,995

NEW

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Modern Detached Family Residence that was constructed only twelve years ago to very high standards
- Immaculately presented throughout , Storm Porch, A Large Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Study. Spacious Lounge, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, First Floor Landing,
- Master Bedroom and Guest Bedroom (both en-suite), Two Further Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom.
- LPG gas central heating, high security double glazing, intruder alarm, double garage and ample parking for several vehicles on a sweeping graveled driveway. EPC Rating

NEW

Trefonen Road, Oswestry — £275,000

- A most comfortably appointed and well positioned Family Detached Residence being convenient to the town facilities and having outstanding views and across the Maes Y Llan playing fields and the Shropshire Plain beyond
- Wide Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Sitting Room with Bow Window, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Area, Three Excellent Double Bedrooms (one with En-Suite Shower Room), Luxury Bathroom
- D/G, Gas C/H, large terraced and lawned garden to fore with secluded garden with patio area to the rear. Garage and parking. EPC Rating E

NEW

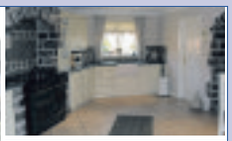
Belle Vue, Morda — £147,000

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Semi-Detached House in the Centre of the popular village of Morda being approximately one mile from Oswestry
- In immaulate order throughout, Porch, Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom. Gas Central Heating, double glazing, off-road parking, larger than average garage and space for caravan. EPC Rating C

NEW PRICE

Croeswylan Lane, Oswestry — £239,950

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Rear Lobby/Utility/Cloaks together with Four Excellent Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom and En Suite. Gas fired central heating, double glazing
- Sun patio and delightful enclosed gardens to the rear. Ample parking to fore
- EPC Rating C



Ellesmere Road, St Martins — £249,995

- Semi detached 3 bedroom family house
- Restored and extended by the current owners to a high specification
- Double Glazing throughout, Gas C/H
- Under floor heating to part of the ground floor
- Large garage block with storage room
- Well maintained gardens. EPC Rating D

1.46 Acres

Top Street, Whittington — £599,950

- A beautiful character residence dating from the 1780's,
- Set in landscaped gardens and grounds extending to approx
- 0.56 Hectares (1.46 Acres) Wide Reception Hall, Lounge,
- Morning Rm, Sitting Rm, Dining Rm. Kitchen/Breakfast Rm
- Study, Cloaks, Utility Rm, Six Bedrooms, 2 with En-Suite
- Family Bathroom. Partial D/G, Gas C/H. 2 garages, Workshop
- EPC Rating F

Llanrhaeadr Ym, Nr Oswestry — £275,000

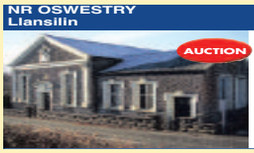
- A wonderfully positioned & spacious Detached House
- On the outskirts of the village of Llanrhaeadr
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Rm, Dining rm
- Kitchen/Breakfast RoomUtility, Cloaks
- 5 Double Bedrooms (1 En-Suite Bathroom)
- Study/Occasional Bedroom, Family Bathrm
- Oil C/H, car parking. Outstanding views
- EPC Rating E

March 21 Collective Property Auction

Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton, Oswestry, 2.00pm

Entries are now being invited for our Property Auction in June 2013
For more information please call any of our offices.

NR OSWESTRY, Llansilin — LOT 1 Guide Price Over £40,000



AUCTION

A character property situated in a prime location within the Village of Llansilin. Ideal for conversion to a residential welling with scope for flare and individual design on a spacious layout.

WREXHAM, Johnstown — LOT 2 Guide Price Over £70,000

AUCTION

- Semi-detached Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing
- Gardens & Garage

WREXHAM, Coedpoeth — LOT 3 Guide Price £30,000

AUCTION

- Unconverted Chapel
- Heart of village location
- Suitable for various alternative uses (subject to consent).

FLINT, Kelsterton — LOT 4 Guide Price £60,000

AUCTION

- Two Bedroom Cottage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- EPC rating G

LLANGOLLEN, Pontfadog — LOT 5 Guide Price Over £20,000–£30,000

AUCTION

- Chapel situated within the village of Pontfadog.
- Scope for conversion to a number of different uses subject to the necessary planning consent being obtained.

LLANGOLLEN, Nantyr — LOT 6 Guide Price £90,000 to £100,000

AUCTION

- Stone built barn for Conversion
- Full Planning Permission for 3 bedroom property
- Gardens ext to approx 0.24 ac
- Elevated rural position
- Outstanding views over Ceiriog Valley
- Additional Land available by separate negotiation

SHREWSBURY, Ruyton XI Towns — LOT 7 Guide Price Over £100,000

AUCTION

- Spacious Mid-Terrace House
- Entrance Hall/Study
- Sitting Room, Cellerage
- Dining Room, Kitchen,
- 4 Beds, Family Bathroom,
- Large Landing Sitting Room,
- Rear Garden, Parking
- EPC Rating E

LLANGOLLEN, Nantyr — LOT 8 Guide Price Over £100,00

AUCTION

- Accommodation land extending to 18.07 acres
- The land is currently laid to pasture and generally in good heart.
- Road frontage to both blocks.

Date for 2013 Property Auctions 20 June, 19 September & 5 December

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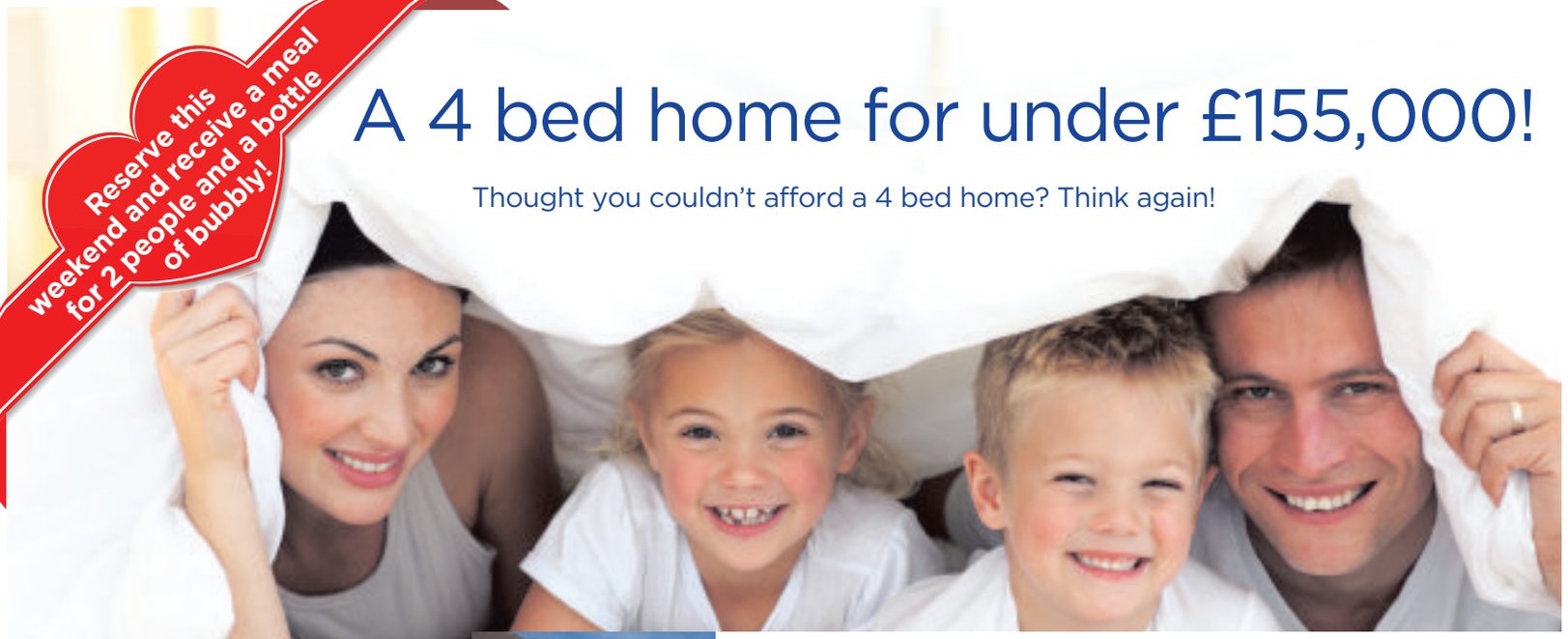

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Talk to our representative for full details. Photography shows exterior views of The Preston showhome at Wat's Meadow.
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3 Reception rooms | 3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | Conservatory
Garden | Trout pool | Detached annexe (2300sqft) | Orchard
Double garage | Paddock | EPC rating E

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 lucy.dale@struttandparker.com

Weston Under Redcastle | Shropshire — **Guide price £560,000**

Hodnet 3 miles | Whitchurch 9 miles | Shrewsbury 13 miles

A charming Grade II listed School House set in a picturesque village location

2 Reception rooms | 4 Bedrooms (one ensuite) | Study/play room
3 Bathrooms | Conservatory | Laundry room
Double garage | Garden store | Kennel/workshop | Garden Room
EPC rating F

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 sarah.miller@struttandparker.com

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Farmer's Daughter joins Local Valuers

Miss Joanna E Wall BSc (Hons)

Joanna has recently joined McCartneys, based at the Church Stretton office. She has a BSc (Hons) Degree in Rural Enterprise and Land Management from Harper Adams University College.

Joanna will work alongside Karl Salter in the Church Stretton / Bishop's Castle offices covering all aspects of property sales, rentals and valuation.

She will also be promoting the rural professional aspect of the business from these offices including:-

- ***Sales and letting of farms and smallholdings***
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- ***Renewable energy and general rural professional instructions***

Joanna's previous employment in chartered surveying firms has led to her gaining a wide range of experience.

Joanna will also be involved within seasonal machinery and farm sales with optimism to pursue some rostrum experience soon.

Please contact Joanna on one of the following:
Tel: 01694 722 288 Fax: 01694 723095
email: Joanna.wall@mccartneys.co.uk

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McCartneys Chartered Building Surveyors will be available for a free consultation, to advise on all aspects of planning, surveying and building project management at the following offices:

Office	Date	Time
Welshpool	Monday 18th Feb. 2013	10am–1.00pm
Newtown	Tuesday 19th Feb. 2013	10am–1.00pm

NEW VENUE ADDED

Church Stretton	Thursday 21st Feb. 2013	10am–1.00pm
Bishops Castle	Friday 22nd Feb. 2013	10am–1.00pm

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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK

Cosy one-bedroom cottage full of charm and character

Cross House Cottage, Trefonen is an attractive one -bedroom semi-detached cottage with many original features, including beamed ceilings, a cast iron log burner and pine latched doors.
On the market through Town & Country for £115,000, accommodation includes a lounge, kitchen/diner, inner hall, bathroom, bedroom, paved and gravelled gardens with shrubbed beds and ample off-road parking for up to three vehicles.

For further information contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com

TOWN & COUNTRY
Tel: 01691 679631

Contemporary bungalow in pleasant location

Number 11 Churchfields, in the popular village of St Martins, near Oswestry, is a modern two-bedroom bungalow in a pleasant location.
The link-detached property is for sale through Richmond Harvey, who are seeking offers around £135,950. With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, an attractive bathroom, landscaped gardens, driveway and garage.

For further information contact Richmond Harvey on 01691 654222 or visit www.richmondharvey.com

RICHMOND HARVEY

Country property stands in an acre of landscaped gardens

Bron-Y-Cul, Moelfre, Llansilin, is a well maintained country cottage with three bedrooms and two reception rooms with inglenook fireplaces.
The detached property, which stands in about an acre of landscaped gardens, is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole priced at £249,950.
With double glazing and oil central heating, it has a sitting room, dining room, kitchen, lobby, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, lovely gardens and a timber car port/store.

For further information contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 or visit www.morrismarshall.co.uk

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Local Tradesmen

TIPS OF THE WEEK

PANDEL BATHROOMS AND TILES LTD

Pandel Bathrooms & Tiles Ltd is a local company who has been trading in Wellington Telford for over 20 years. This quality show room has been extended in the past few years to ensure the most recent and up to date Bathroom suites, shower enclosures, fitted furniture, vanity units, showers, tiles and accessories that are available on the bathroom market.

The showroom has a quality feel and set out in different layouts offering a wide range and choice of well-designed affordable products that will work in any bathroom space. Some of the brands that can be found in the showroom are Ideal Standard, Jacuzzi, Vitra, Mira, Vanity Hall, Roman and Kudos all backed with "watertight guarantee" In today's climate it is important that our clients receive the best value for money ensuring the quality is not compromised we are here at Pandel to ensure this the case.

"It is our policy not to hard sell, It is important that we give practical, genuine help expert advice and designer tips. In short good old fashioned professional service" Explains Mark Richardson (Director)

We all enjoy having a wonderful collection to choose from but at Pandel Bathrooms we've made it our business to show the very best selection of Bathroom products and display them in our showroom complemented by our large range of tiles. So from a Tap to a makeover make Pandel Bathrooms your first choice.

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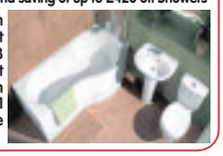
For Free expert advice, design and home survey contact Mark on 01952 246333 or visit the showroom at 19 Bridge Road Wellington Telford Shropshire TF1 1DZ or view our website www.pandelbathrooms.co.uk



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(T&C's below)

MARIA French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 397451** ✉

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTM nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401837**

JULIE cute blonde blue eyed flirty female 31, looking for laidback dates and fun times with older confident male, 40-65yrs with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401833**

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTM up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, adult fun times and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401591**

TRACY slim blue eyed blonde, likes nights out, travel, commitment phobic, looking for understanding professional male for mutually convenient meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401579**

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 402041**

MID 80's female, young in mind, seeks male for dancing, days out, company and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401157**

SARA young fun and sick of being single, trendy, well presented, very attractive, loves good food/wine, keeping fit, fast cars, looking to fall in love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401543**

I'M Carol 39, slim, blonde with legs 11, passionate by nature, loves tlc and looking for similar solvent male for fun times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401467**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394106** ✉

JANINE petite cute female who loves meals in/out, romantic strolls, WLTM interesting appreciative, independent man for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400803**

JULIE 30's female looking for some much needed tlc with similar laidback male. Likes nights in/out, socialising, romance etc, call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400487**

KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, wltm similar genuine male to wine/dine enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400793**

CHANTELLE 40yr old slim sensual confident female who loves to party, seeking older male for fun dates without complications. Any age/race. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400465**

JACKIE lonely discreet 30's female with many interests, WLTM kind professional male to share nice times with. Status/age/looking unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400451**

CLARE 37 attractive slim with long dark hair and big brown eyes, WLTM genuine male who is honest, sincere and won't waste my time or break my heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400199**

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400949** ✉

RETIRED lady, seeks gent for friendship and outings, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 392936** ✉

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring fun man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400263**

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks white/black male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 375789**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, wltm tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395727**

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395717**

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 399245** ✉

SAM pretty petite, fit, sensual brunette, divorced with two children, looking for genuine, tactile guy who wants to meet someone special like me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 398763**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty size 10, loves to keep in shape and look good, WLTM sincere man to make my life complete, call if you're him. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 398757**

LUCY beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, sensual and seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 397389**

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393469** ✉

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395051**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 397681**

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTM honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 395675**

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 329319** 📷

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 363277** 📷

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up, 30-60. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 364311**

SHARON slim blonde blue eyed outgoing 30's female looking for uncomplicated meets and adult companionship, like what you hear? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400119**

I'M Heather I love to cook, eat in/out, share a nice flirty glass of large wine or two with good company and am eager to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 399715**

SHROPSHIRE female 40, seeks special local male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 355959**

JOANNA 43, single mum, looking for honest, caring, loving N/S male for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393892** ✉

SUE confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 397485** ✉

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 397123**

TRACY 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 397027**

48YR old medium build female, seeking a little companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391241** ✉

PAULA 37, WLTM male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 398503**

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 398349**

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well-dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 399923** ✉

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. (T&C's below).

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401875** ✉

64YR old widow, 5ft 6ins, hardworking, likes meals out, countryside, seeks female, 57-64 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401925**

GENUINE guy, 40, 5ft 10ins, medium build, seeks genuine lady for loving, caring, committed relationship. Coventry. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 402003** ✉

MALE seeking female, 20-40 for relationship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394308** ✉

55YRS young male, 5ft 6ins, slim, young outlook, many interests, seeks lady to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401807** ✉

MALE 40, 6ft 2ins, blond, fit, seeks female for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401899** ✉

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking curvy, scrumptious female for fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401737** ✉

STEVE 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks female with view to permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401695**

VINCE 52, caring, seeking female for fun and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401683** ✉

AIDEN single dad, 44, seeking female for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401651** ✉

33YR old male, down to earth, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394176** ✉

40YR old Asian male, GSOH, likes meals out, country walks, looking for English lady with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401609** ✉

61YR old male, seeking daytime meets with female for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401667** ✉

39YR old young looking male, blue eyes, 5ft 11ins, clean, seeking nice, attractive female, 21-45. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394260** ✉

ATTRACTIVE tall, Indian professional male, GSOH, easygoing, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeks female with GSOH who enjoys life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401385**

MALE 50, genuine, honest, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394232**

MICHAEL 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401479** ✉

STEVE 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks similar female for permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401441**

RICHARD 48, dark hair, brown eyes, olive skin, WLTM lady, 40-50 for LTR, size unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401431** ✉

MARTIN 5ft 10ins, 52, seeking female, 39-50 for nights out, pubs, clubs, restaurants, cinema etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401473** ✉

SINGLE 46yr old guy, seeking female, 50-65 for discreet fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394194** ✉

YOUNG 70's male, widower, own transport, active in business, likes weekends away, seeks honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401203**

RICHARD 39, honest, caring, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks lady, 35-40 for good times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401145** ✉

IAN 6ft, likes meals out, weekends away, seeks female, Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 394134**

GAY SINGLES

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MARK 36, seeking fun, outgoing male for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401723** ✉

STEVE 54 bi, non-scene, seeking guy of similar age or older for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401465** ✉

OLDER male, outgoing, sporty, seeking younger man for fun and friendship, slim-medium build, active, hairy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 401225** ✉

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 391849** ✉

27YR old female, seeking no strings fun with other female, any age/nationality. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393530** ✉

ATTRACTIVE male, 54, seeks older couple, 60-75 for close adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 400101** ✉

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, seeks similar female friends for days/nights out. Sutton Coldfield and surrounding area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 393381**

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NEWS

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Interview skills are explained to pupils

PUPILS have been learning interview techniques in Oswestry with the help of a rotary club.

Year 11 students from The Marches School, in Morda Road,are being given mock interviews with members.

The club members have been donating their time and expertise to carry out 112 interviews. Each one lasts just under half an hour and the programme is scheduled to run every Monday for the next seven weeks.

Mrs Jenny Card, house leader at The Marches School, said: "It is a great exercise to help students practise the process of completing application forms and attending an interview. "It is fantastic to see their confidence develop and grow as they begin to feel more at ease in an interview situation.

"This valuable activity would not be possible without the kind support of the rotary."

Testing seminar

A FREE seminar will be held in Oswestry to explain recent changes to the requirements for the testing of portable electrical appliances. The seminar is at City Electrical Factors (CEF) at Maesbury Road, Oswestry, on February 20 from 11am.

Councillor calling for poet's name to go on war memorial

WAR POET Wilfred Owen should be remembered by having his name put on the war memorial in Oswestry, the town in which he was born, a councillor has claimed.

Councillor Owen Jones said he wanted to see Wilfred Owen included in an inscription on the memorial gates to Cae Glas Park.He says that as an Oswestrian and one of Shropshire's most famous sons, Owen should be remembered on the official plaques.

Councillor Owen Jones has put a notice of motion to the town council meeting.

It says: "I ask that Oswestry Town Council consider placing the name of Wilfred Owen, the famous war poet, on the gates of the War Memorial at the entrance to Cae Glas Park. Wilfred Owen is an Oswestrian, having been born in Oswestry, at Plas Wilmot, Weston Lane, Oswestry, in 1893."

by Graham Breeze

The officer and poet was killed in action on November 4, 1918.

The telegram informing his parents of his death arrived on November 11, the day the signing of the armistice ended the war.

Plaque

A plaque commemorating the war poet's birth in Oswestry hangs in the Broadwalk next to St Oswald's Parish Church and the new town green has been named the Wilfred Owen green.

Councillor Jones said: "I suggested that the green be named after Wilfred Owen and it was thankfully taken up.

"However I believe there will be obstacles that will have to be overcome if his name is to appear on the memorial gates to Cae Glas Park.

"I think there will be some opposition however I think this would be a good way for Oswestry Town Council to honour Wilfred Owen as we approach the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One."

The council has agreed to refurbish the marble plaques on the memorial gates as many names are becoming difficult to read.

"It seems an ideal time to also include the name of Wilfred Owen."

New tutor in photography

A NEW digital photography tutor has been appointed at the Walford and North Shropshire College, Oswestry.

Mairi Turner, who obtained her BA Honours in photography from Wolverhampton University in 2010, has over 10 years' experience working as a professional photographer and is also a qualified teacher.

She runs photographic workshops with Autism West Midlands, at Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, in the school holidays.

Mairi says: "I see photography as a means of holding memory in place, providing the means of retrieving those memories and reliving the experiences. I also enjoy passing on my experience so as to help others get the most out of this art form."

A five-week beginners digital photography course for compact cameras will start on February 25 at the Oswestry campus. For more details on the course visit **www.wnsc.ac.uk** or call (01691) 688000.

After school clubs popular

With pupil Trystan Jones is after school supervisor Sandra Lawrence.

WHEN THE bell goes at West Felton Primary School youngsters don't rush to grab their coats and race to the school gates.

For after school clubs are increasingly popular As well as the general club, there are also other clubs covering topics including computer skills.

Deputy head, Helen Hughes, said: "The after school club offers children a range of sports and activities including arts and crafts, homework help and indoor sports."

The school's book club is very popular and sees older children helping younger ones to read.

A spokesman added: "Our aim is to provide a secure, happy environment within which the children are given opportunities for good quality learning in an encouraging atmosphere.

"Emphasis is placed on developing self discipline and social co-operation. We expect parents to join in a partnership, working together to ensure their child benefits from the opportunities offered."

Party was a big hit for senior citizens

THE recent New Year's Party for senior citizens at Welshpool Town Hall has been hailed a great success despite numbers being down on previous years.

Organised and hosted by Alan Crowe, the party featured entertainment from Alan Herbert.

There was also a host of special guests, including hit recording star and Opportunity Knocks winner Berni Flint, Paralympic gold medal winner Deborah Brennan and Paul Hayes from television's *Cash In The Attic*.

Thanks

"Thanks are expressed to the following local businesses for their support - Cafe Inglenook, Welshpool Jewellers, Flaunt It, Tesco, Eric Nevilles, Pinewood Cafe, Morrisons, Lamplite Antiques and Sainsburys. Also to the many individuals who baked cakes, served the refreshments, donated prizes," said Mr Crow.

The raffle raised £153 with £21 each being donated to the following: Darby & Joan, Stroke Club, Happy Time Club, Visually Impaired Club, Parents Association, Contact The Elderly Tea Parties, and OAP Lunches at Oldford School.

The balance will be donated to the WLLR Town Trail Project.

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Patients sought for pioneering research

TEN Powys patients aged from 60 to 79 years are being sought for a pioneering research project focused on how they can benefit from telehealth technology.

The patients must already be using technology to manage chronic pain or a long term medical condition, be visited at least once a week in their home by a nurse or professional carer and live in Powys.

The project aims to explore the relationships between patients and their professional carers when they start using a range of telehealth technology.

Patients willing to take part in this study, or seeking more information, are asked to contact Sophie Corbett, Research Assistant at the Institute of Rural Health in Newtown on Tel: 01686 629480. All interviews will be treated in the strictest confidence.

"Technology might include going online to discuss your medical condition with other sufferers in an internet forum, using a mobile phone app that allows you to put in information about your pain and track it daily, sending blood pressure readings via a mobile phone or landline to your health centre or receiving text reminders to take your medicine," explained Sophie.

BNP plans protests in row over Muslim prayer centre

THE British National Party says it will stage protests in Oswestry against a decision to allow a former town church to be changed into a Muslim prayer centre.

The right wing party's North Shropshire group organisers Phil Reddall, who asked the public to object to the plans, said the organisation would 'not just walk away' from the controversy.

More than 70 people wrote to Shropshire Council to object to the plans by Oswestry Muslim Society to develop a 19th century former Presbyterian church on Oswald Road.

by Graham Breeze

And more than 40 people wrote in support of the application.

The bid did not go before Shropshire Councillors for consideration at a planning committee after officers ruled that because it fitted policy permission could be given under delegated powers.

Mr Reddall said he was 'disappointed but not surprised' the decision was not taken by councillors at an open public meeting.

And he said: "I would like to thank the people who bothered to write in against it and put their name out there and into the public arena in what is a politically incorrect situation.

Law

He added: "We will not just walk away from this. We are putting together some days of action to raise awareness of this.

"We know we won't overturn this situation but we will be doing something.

"We can't say too much about what we will doing yet but we will be taking action in Oswestry obviously within the law."

Council officers revealed that some objectors' letters were not put on the website for viewing because they referred to the applicants' race and religion so were not material planning concerns. Mr Reddall said: "We can't control what some objectors wrote."

Oswestry Muslim Society members say they will have the building surveyed and investigate funding before they decide whether to carry on with the project.

MPs at launch of IT contest

GLYN Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, has joined fellow MPs and e-skills UK in launching the seventh year of the Make IT Happy competition, a UK-wide technology challenge for primary school students aged nine to 11.

The competition is run by the Parliamentary Internet Communications and Technology Forum (Pictfor) and e-skills UK, the Sector Skills Council for Business and Information Technology. It is backed by almost 100 MPs from across the UK.

This year's competition has been specially designed to help children use the internet safely and creatively.

Children will be asked to create an infographic – a digital poster – that tells other people what they've learned and how they too can be safe on the web. This reinforces the learning and helps spread the word about using the internet securely.

The sum of £1,200 will be awarded to each of the regional competition finalists.

Wine-tasting fun for hospice

Geoff Hughes of The Walls & VJ Lonsdale of PurpleFish.

PURPLEFISH & The Walls held a wine tasting evening raising money for Hope House Children's Charity.

Around 45 people attended the evening where Geoff Hughes, the owner of The Walls, talked people through some of his favourite red, white and rose wines.

VJ Lonsdale, of PurpleFish, said: "The event was a great success and people have already asked when the next one will be – so watch this space."

PurpleFish is a new events initiative in Oswestry putting on various events around the town. The next event is a debate titled Is There a God? which will be held in The Wynnstay Hotel on March 9.

For more info please see *purplefish.org.uk* or contact VJ at *vj@purplefish.org.uk*

Pressure group is backing language

A WELSH language pressure group has taken out adverts online and in newspapers calling for policy changes after the 2011 census showed a decline in the use of Welsh.

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg says people 'want to live in Welsh' in adverts after the census showed a fall in the number of places where over half the population can speak Welsh.

It placed the adverts before a meeting with First Minister Carwyn Jones.

The group wants the Welsh government to implement its policies, which includes every child being fluent in Welsh.

Its chairman Robin Farrar said: "Our vision is a country where we can all live our lives in Welsh and securing strong Welsh language communities is the only way to realise that vision.

"What's needed is the political will to realise the ambition of people around the country."

There has been a fall in the number of places where over half the population can speak Welsh, the latest figures from the 2011 census show.

There are 157 council wards with more than 50 per cent of residents who are Welsh speakers in 2011, compared to 192 in 2001.

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Moves to convert pub into homes

PLANS HAVE been lodged to convert a landmark pub in a Shropshire village into a house and flats.

The Hart & Trumpet in Gobowen closed down more than 12 months ago and a planning application has been lodged with Shropshire Council to change it into a two-storey house and four apartments.

And a separate application has been lodged for outline permission to use land behind the pub for a housing development.

A design and access statement in support of the bid to convert the pub by applicant Littlemoors Developments said that the building, which sits close to Gobowen railway station, was an important feature of the village and it would seek 'to retain the principal elevations as much as practically possible'.

It said that since January 2012 the pub has been used as a private residence by the present owner who now wishes to convert the internal spaces to create four apartments together with a two storey dwelling.

The plans would change the pub into one house with three bedrooms, three one-bedroomed apartments and one two-bedroomed apartment.

Shropshire Council hopes to determine the applications by April 3.

Young entrepreneurs gain tips on business start-ups

BUDDING young entrepreneurs in and around Oswestry are being encouraged to attend a new business start-up club.

Start Up Oswestry is a open to people aged 18-30 who are thinking of setting up their own company.

Each meeting gives basic start-up information and aims to help young people put together a simple business plan. It also gives support with sales and marketing, access to finance and help in promoting their new enterprise.

Four meetings have been held since the club was launched last October 2012 and the next will take place on February 12 from 5.30pm until 7pm at The Guildhall in Oswestry.

by Graham Breeze

Mike Owen, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for business growth and prosperity, said: "These clinics provide a great opportunity for Oswestry's budding young entrepreneurs to gain valuable advice about setting up their own business.

"I encourage anyone aged 30 and under with a great business idea to come along, to find out how to turn that idea into a money-making business."

Challenge

Shropshire Councillor Vince Hunt, local Shropshire Councillor for Oswestry West, said: "I'd like to encourage businesses to come along and meet other people planning the same self-employed future.

"At the event they will be talking about developing ideas, naming the business, branding, pitching, connecting to other new start-up businesses, making contacts with existing business owners and local network groups, and registering online with the start-up forum to receive daily business tips."

The Start-up clinics will be held on the second Tuesday of the month until September 2013 at The Guildhall, on Bailey Head in Oswestry.

Tickets are free but online registration is essential. Visit **http://startupclu boswestry4.eventbrite.co.uk**

Tidy station is in line for gong

VOLUNTEERS who won an award for how well they keep Chirk's railway station spick and span say they are hopeful they can repeat the feat this year.

The Friends of Chirk Station won a Tidy Wales Award last year and have been shortlisted for the prize again.

The awards recognise community groups, schools and organisations across Wales who worked hard to improve their local environment.

The Friends have been invited to attend the award ceremony in Cardiff Bay on February 27 where the winners will be announced by Welsh Government environment minister John Griffiths.

The Friends have been shortlisted for the best unstaffed station in Wales.

Christine Ashford from the group said: "We are proud of the work we have achieved over the past eight years in keeping our station clean, tidy and free from litter. We won last year and we hope we can do well again."

Balloon business is booming

Balloons for all Occasions has sold 60,000 in 10 years, owner Claire Fugill, is seen with a selection.

OSWESTRY still loves to party despite the recession, bosses at a firm celebrating 10 years in businesses have said.

Town firm Balloons for All Occasions is celebrating its landmark anniversary this month.

Owner Claire Fugill started it at her home and four years later moved into two units at the Powis Hall indoor market.

Despite the tough economic times, the firm was able to expand and double its size three years ago.

Mrs Fugill said after 10 years of business – and blowing up 60,000 balloons – trading was still going well.

She said: "When my dad had his 65th birthday we had a bit of celebration with balloons and other things to celebrate his birthday and a lot of people said we needed a business like that in Oswestry because nobody was doing anything like it.

"We don't just do balloons – we do banners, party decorations, fancy dress accessories.

"We have even done stuff for funerals."

Starbucks and KFC in boost for town

COFFEE giant Starbucks will open a new cafe in Oswestry in May, it has revealed.

The cafe, which will create 20 new jobs, will open at the Oswestry Gateway development near the town's Mile End roundabout.

Work has already started on the development, which will also include a new KFC restaurant.

The KFC will create 45 jobs and open at the same time. Bosses have already advertised for an assistant restaurant general manager and team leaders.

A spokesman for Starbucks said: "There is a station due to open on Mile End in Oswestry in early May."

A spokesman for KFC said: "We're delighted that building work has started on our new restaurant in Oswestry and we're looking forward to welcoming local residents to the restaurant when we open in May."

When the planning application was revealed last year Oswestry Civic Society had objected, raising fears the new restaurants would affect the 'vitality and sustainability' of the town centre.

But Shropshire Council granted permission under delegated powers after officers said the proposal fitted policy.

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Just five crimes are on record for month

JUST FIVE crimes have been recorded in Ellesmere in a month, police have revealed.

Constable Scott Barnes, speaking at a meeting of Ellesmere Town Council on February 4, said the town remained a low crime area and had suffered no burglaries there since January 7.

He said there was one incident of malicious communication, one person tried to break into a unit at the town's business park, there was a shoplifting incident at Tesco but the person is not believed to be from the area, there was a domestic assault and an incident where someone threw a snowball.

He said: "It is pleasing as this is something the force is trying its best to identify those responsible and prevent this from happening.

"Ellesmere is a low crime area for crime recording."

After the report at the meeting, councillors agreed to write to West Mercia Police's Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore to stress the importance of the town's police station was.

It comes as Mr Longmore carries out a review of West Mercia's buildings as part of the force's savings plans.

The review is currently being finalised and the stations at risk of closure are due to be announced later this month. A full public consultation will follow.

Neglected woodland is given new lease of life

A WOODLAND on the edge of Oswestry which has lain neglected for years will come alive this spring with a carpet of flowers and a new stone footpath through the trees.

Residents have teamed up with Shropshire Council to give Henley Woods and Meadow a new lease of life.

by Graham Breeze

The woodland was planted in the 1990s as part of the expansion of the eastern edge of the town.

Although it is regularly used by dog walkers it has been neglected over the past two decades.

A public meeting will be held at Eastern Oswestry Community Centre on February 19 at 7pm to reveal progress and to encourage more people to get involved.

Town mayor and Shropshire councillor Martin Bennett is spearheading the project to turn the area into a community woodland.

He said: "After I suggested that it should be positively managed for local people residents have already responded, taking part in a huge clean-up last year which instantly improved its image.

"The development and management of the area should be a shared responsibility between the community and the council, each bringing their interest and expertise to make sure that we get the most out of the woodland.

"I do hope that during 2013 we will be able to roll out this approach with other parts of the land, for example at Broadlands Way and Cabin Lane."

He added: "I look forward to working with residents and officers to make this part of Oswestry the best it can be."

Community

Shaun Burkey, Shropshire Council's outdoor recreation greenspace officer, said: "This is a great community project on people's doorsteps."

Members of the newly-formed Friends of Henley Woods group planted 13,000 spring flowering native bulbs at the site before Christmas.

Work has now begun to fell trees in order to open up the canopy as well as clearing the route for a new stone footpath, which is being funded by the Sustainable Transport Fund.

Students raise cash for Evie's operation

Travel and Tourism students in the atrium at Oswestry Campus with Donna Harrington, founder of Evie's Dream, centre, and lecturer Louise Gregory, far right.

STUDENTS at a Shropshire college have done their bit to ensure a five-year-old girl's dream of being able to walk comes true.

Travel and tourism students from Walford and North Shropshire College in Oswestry raised £355 when they staged a panto and held other activities.

The money has been shared between Shropshire's Hope House Children's Hospice and a fund set up to allow Llangynog girl Evie-Lou Harrington to travel to America for a life-changing operation.

Evie, who suffers from cerebral palsy, is currently in the States with her mum Donna Harrington after undergoing surgery.

Donna, who founded the Evie's Dream fundraising appeal to pay for the trip, came into the Oswestry campus to receive her cheque.

She said since 2011 the charity hadraised more than £41,000. Donna said: "I am really grateful to the college and everyone who has been kind enough to help us. For more information visit Evie's Facebook page."

Hope House at Morda near Oswestry provides nursing care. The students were invited to the hospice to present a cheque for £177 and to be shown around and to learn, from area fundraiser Paul Coope, how the money they had raised would be put to use.

NEWS in brief

Guild hears talk about braiding

THE Oswestry and District Embroiders' Guild enjoyed talks recently on braiding and its traditional uses.

Julie Hedges explained how the technique has been developed by artists around the world and displayed her own work.

The guild met again at the Memorial Hall on Friday when they heard from embroiderer Suzette Smart.

Visitors are welcome at a charge of £5 to include tea and coffee.

Celebration for gallery opening

A NEW art gallery will open in Ellesmere next month.

Studio Gallery in Scotland Street will open on March 23.

An event will be held between 11am and 4pm, with the official opening ceremony at midday.

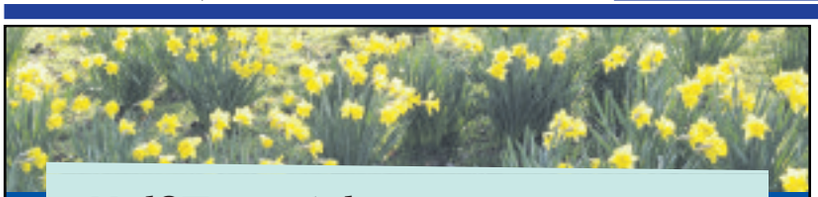
Mayor of Ellesmere, Councillor Alan Clarke, is due to attend the event along with a number of other town councillors.

Coffee and chat on offer at event

A COFFEE morning will be held in a village near Oswestry today, Thursday.

It will take place at West Felton Methodist Chapel from 10am-12pm.

A coffee and a chat will cost £1 and a bacon bap will cost an extra £1.



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Half Term Trails: Sat 16 - Sun 24 Feb, 10am - 4pm
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Tree Planting: Sat 16 Feb, 11am - 3pm
Plant a living tree for your loved one at Attingham (weather permitting). £10 per tree, cash payments only. Admission charges do not apply unless entering the park afterwards.

Hang out with a Hawk: Sun 17 Feb, 10am - 4pm
Get the school holidays off to a flying start and meet some stunning birds of prey. Flying displays will take place at intervals between 11am and 2pm, please check on the day for exact times.

Trusty's Tuesday Club: Tues 19 Feb, 10am - 3pm
Plant your own daffodil pot to take home, £4 per child.

Snowdrop Evening Walk: Fri 22 - Sun 24 Feb, 5 - 8pm
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Fun day planning is pulling together

PLANS ARE being put together now for a summer fun day on the Shropshire border.

The event takes place at Chirk on June 29 and is being organised by the Chirk Celebrations and Lights Committee in partnership with Chirk AAAs Committee.

Christine Ashford from the committee said: "Several sub groups were formed to organise different aspects of the fun day including producing a programme and posters for the event.

"Chirk Bowling Club will be organising the refreshments in the marquee and St Mary's Church volunteered to be responsible for the gate.

"Also in the marquee will be a baking competition for all ages on a coronation theme, this year being 60 years since the coronation of HM, Queen Elizabeth.

"All organisations in Chirk are invited to put on a stall to raise funds for their work here in our community. Already Chirk Circle of Friends, NSPCC and Chirk football sections have put their names down for a pitch. There will be a variety of entertainment on the field including Stokes' Fair."

She added: "Our next meeting will be held on February 28 at 7pm in Chirk AAAs. All organisations in Chirk are welcome."

Archie's card stirs memories

by Toby Neal

SHE was his 'Little Seagull', but this was a romance that did not take flight.

You may recall that a few weeks ago we carried this postcard franked in Oswestry, which was sent by one AE Higgins to a Miss Elizabeth Clapham, of Wombwell, near Barnsley.

His message was: "Smithfield Rd. Garage, Oswestry. Dear Little Seagull, I have sent you a photo of our char-a-banc, but I am not on it.

"I hope you had a nice journey home. If I ever come near Barnsley I will call and see you, and then you can come for a ride in the car and sit in the front seat by me (some swank). A.E. Higgins."

We asked if anybody knew more about Mr Higgins, and as a result were contacted by his daughter, Miss Beryl Higgins, who lives in Oswestry.

Fascinating

"He was Archie Edward Higgins – Archie. He lived in the Haven in Salop Road when he was young, and then he lived in Weston Lane, and then he lived at 3 Smithfield Road, where Marks & Spencer is, all in Oswestry.

"That space where Marks & Spencer is is where his garage was. It was called the White Rose Garage.

"My father did not marry this 'Little Seagull'. I have never heard of her at all.

"He married a lady called Edith Evans. She was from Llanfechain.

"They met in Oswestry Methodist Chapel. They were married there and I was christened there. They were both members."

We'll go into more detail of Beryl's fascinating recollections of her late father and the garage next week, but will round off things for now with feedback which came to us through Helen Sharman, honorary secretary of Oswestry Talking Newspaper, who reads this column to listeners every week.

So please read out this bit Helen: Welcome to you all, hope you enjoy the column, and remember, if you have any memories of Oswestry of yesteryear, feel free to share them.

Helen said: "You asked for any information relating to the vehicle.

"One of our listeners telephoned me to say that it belonged to Mr Higgins of White Rose Garage, Smithfield Street, where Marks & Spencer are currently based in town. Mr Higgins sold petrol and it was called Russian Oil Petrol, known locally as ROP, and as a child he called it 'rotten old petrol'.

"The petrol was pumped into a glass container at the top of the pump which showed a measurement of the amount – one gallon, two gallons, and so on.

"The price was 11d and a halfpenny a gallon.

"My listener used to deliver milk in town and knew quite a lot of businesses and people because of that."

Full up and ready to go – a charabanc from Oswestry's White Rose Garage.

Archie Higgins, who founded the White Rose Garage, and wife Edith.

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Hairdressing trainer helps her students to get ahead

SHARON Cooper has spent 30 years in the hairdressing business and enjoys teaching her skills to youngsters.

Walford & North Shropshire College's hair and beauty team leader has lived in and around Oswestry all her life and spends her time inspiring youngsters by teaching them hair and beauty skills.

The young Sharon spent a lot of her time in a beauty salon because her mother, Audrey, ran a business in Gobowen, and still does today, having clocked up an amazing 47 years in the business. Like her mother, Sharon discovered that hairdressing was the career route she should take.

"I left school and went to a local college and did a secretarial course," said Sharon, who had attended The Marches School.

"But I wasn't enjoying it very much so I found a salon in Wrexham and trained in hairdressing. I like hairdressing because it is creative. I was always quite arty and hairdressing is quite creative. It is nice to see somebody when they come through the door and I am able to change their image. It makes them feel good."

After her training period, Sharon moved back to the family business in Gobowen, where she worked for 11 years and built up a list of loyal clientele.

"I still go back to the salon at weekends," she says.

After a while Sharon decided she wanted to become a teacher.

"I looked into where I could develop my career further and decided to go into education," she said.

"I applied to Shrewsbury College and studied teacher training in special needs and did a Certificate of Education. At the end of the first 12 months I began teaching at the college. I enjoyed it. I have always enjoyed working with the students."

She said sometimes the work is challenging but she finds it so rewarding when she sees lives turned around. Some of her students have gone on to own their own salons and even done London Fashion Week.

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE
with Chrissy Symmons

After 16 years at Shrewsbury College she took up a position at Walford & North Shropshire College.

Sharon has now been in the hairdressing field for 30 years and still enormously enjoys her career, which continues to develop. She now also teaches business.

Her different jobs through the years have seen her meet lots of different characters which, she says, has helped give her plenty of examples to draw on when she teaches.

She added that over the years she has always kept up with the latest hair fashions and trends – and some are starting to make a comeback.

At Walford & North Shropshire College her students offer beauty packages at their in-house hair and beauty salon, Visage.

They also take part in fundraising events. In November they took part in the college's annual charity fashion show in aid of Children in Need, showcasing the creative skills they have learned during their time with Sharon.

Sharon Cooper at the salon at Walford & North Shropshire College.

Methodist church to hold talks during Lent

PEOPLE are invited to attend talks during which will be held in Oswestry Methodist Church.

The first session will be tomorrow, Friday, at 7.30pm with Reverend Mark Rylands.

It has been given the title Peter's Call.

The second talk, on February 25, will be with Reverend Ken Sykes on the topic Peter's Faith.

On March 4 Peter Bevington will speak on Peter's Privilege, on March 11 Reverend Tony Sparham will highlight Peter's Denial and on March 18 Paul Stockdale will speak on Peter's Commission.

A spokesman for the series of talks which have been organised said they will be interesting and stimulating evenings.

There will be refreshments available.

Charity success

A CHARITY evening held Llanymynech has helped to raise hundreds of pounds.

The event was on February 2 at Llanymynech Village Hall in aid of Breast Cancer Care and Get-a-Head, the independent cancer charity.

Spokesperson Bonita Zoltonos said: "It was an amazing evening and a total success raising £860."

New show recreates war poet's home sale

A MOCK auction which will attempt to recreate a sale of the possessions of the family of Shropshire war hero Wilfred Owen more than 100 years ago will be held on March 8.

The 'sale' will be held before a performance of the musical Bullets And Daffodils and will replicate a public auction in 1897 which saw the Owen family sell its Plas Wilmot home, all its household contents and furniture following the death of Wilfred's grandfather.

The mock auction and musical will be performed at Oswestry Cricket Club on Morda Road, Oswestry, and will be part of the town's Festival of the Word.

Dean Johnson, creator of the musical, said the auction hit Owen's mother Susan particularly hard because she was a proud woman.

He said: "It is thought that Susan, who was the greatest influence on the poet's life, never recovered from this change in circumstance as they settled in industrial Birkenhead with financial difficulties.

"The auction performance is a one-off appearance for the festival."

Tickets for the show will cost £6. Call Booka Bookshop on (01691) 662244.

For more information about The Wilfred Owen Story visit **www.wilfredowenstory.com**

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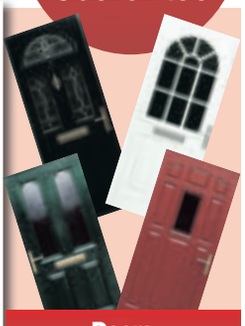

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Grant will buy table tennis kit for group

YOUNGSTERS who attend a village youth club will soon be able to play table tennis thanks to a grant from a county charity.

The Charlotte Hartey Foundation donated £400 to St Martins Youth Club towards the cost of a new table tennis table.

A cheque was handed over by Karl Hartey from the foundation to Sue Heard, a youth leader at the club.

The club originally formed in 1993 at St Martins Church but has since moved twice, firstly to the St Martins Scout Hut and finally to The St Martins Centre in 2004.

Mrs Heard said: "The club meets every Friday evening and is currently attended by almost 40 young people."

As well as their new table-tennis table, there are many other activities to be enjoyed, such as table football, pyrography, cooking, PS2 and Wii games, pool, art and the computer room.

Charity success

A CHARITY evening has raised hundreds of pounds.

More than £860 was raised at a Nostalgias variety night at Llanymynech Village Hall, near Oswestry, on February 2. Proceeds will be split between Breast Cancer Care and Get-a-Head.

Now is a good time to see herons building their nests

ON THE WILD SIDE

with Ben Waddams

AS far as original, innovative and inventive names go, it doesn't rank highly on the list.

However at least no one can argue that it is not informative and to-the-point. This time of the year is when herons come together to nest, and what better name to call a group of nesting herons, but a 'heronry'.

If I'm being particularly grammatically correct, I would say that these birds are laying siege to the trees in order to build their heronries, for a 'siege' is a group of herons.

Indeed, February is the best time of the year to see herons. Not only are they frantically gathering sticks (indeed they're large enough to gather 'branches') together in their communal breeding tree, but when they begin to fish in earnest for their upcoming offspring, they can be easily spotted along the margins of lakes and ponds among the low, dead reeds.

Antics

Herons are probably the largest bird you're likely to see in Shropshire with a wingspan of around 6ft and what with their uncharacteristically public appearances this month, there is no excuse not to see them. The best way to do this is make a trip to The Mere at Ellesmere. Heronwatch 2013 has begun, and with several cameras trained on the nests atop nearby Moscow Island, it is possible to see the antics of these usually shy and elusive birds.

If you have never seen a heron before, then you may mistake it for some kind of stork, and you wouldn't be far off the mark in doing so. They behave very like their stork cousins in their nests with the male's courtship dance involving the stretching of his neck upwards and backwards over his back with his long yellow bill pointing skyward.

To me, the heron is a rather stately looking bird with its regal, overseeing air, slow, measured movements and neat, black, white and grey plumage.

Under the Blue Bridge – acrylic on board – by Ben Waddams

However, all that finery does take some cleaning, especially if you make a living by wading through muddy water, eating fish. If the feathers become dirty and slimy, a specially shaped claw on the third toe is used to comb through the plumage.

But that's not all. Herons (and several other wading birds) grow clusters of different feathers known as 'powder down'. These are unlike other feathers in that they do moult and grow continuously. As they get very fine towards their tips, the feathers disintegrate into a powdery substance and this can be used by the heron to soak up and dislodge dirt, blood and slime.

If that wasn't enough, Heronwatch not only allows one to 'watch' the herons, but hear them, too. Usually fairly quiet throughout most of the year, herons crank up the volume during breeding time and are both boisterous and raucous making for great viewing. Visitors are not allowed on to the island which is just as well as stressed herons do not make a particularly attractive vision. If one feels threatened when on the nest, it will regurgitate its latest meal of fish on to the trespasser below. Apparently the Victorians used to picnic on Moscow Island; let's hope they did so later in the year.

Ben's wildlife art can now be seen at The Willow Gallery, Oswestry.

Language students experience exchange

FIFTH form pupils from Oswestry School enjoyed a week in the town of Besancon in France as part of an exchange arrangement.

The pupils were the guests of Lycee St Jean and were hosted by their partners who had visited Oswestry in June.

The Oswestry School pupils attended lessons at the French school, as well as enjoying excursions.

A highlight of the trip was a morning at the television studios of France 3 where the pupils learnt about the making, recording and broadcasting of news.

The group especially enjoyed their trip to Dijon where a homemade gingerbread shop and the well-known Maille mustard boutique were visited.

Isobel Chidlow, head of modern foreign languages who accompanied the fifth form pupils, said: "The exchange trips are a wonderful opportunity for pupils to live the language."

Dairy bid update

THE Campaign Against Leighton Farm expansion has called a meeting in the Village Hall on Friday February 15 at 8pm. The meeting is to update people on moves to persuade the Welsh Minister that the proposals should be refused.

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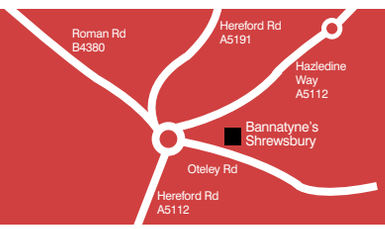

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THE ARTS 01691 668094

Drama group takes on Tarantino theme

by Graham Breeze

THE next two plays performed by a drama group on the Shropshire/Powys border will have something of a local feel to them.

The Llanymynech Amateur Dramatic Society is staging two one-act plays, both written by its own resident playwrights.

First off is After the Llantin Tarantino WI garden produce show, by Neil Rhodes .

Group spokeswoman Suzannah Smith said: "The ladies of the Llantin Tarantino WI are kind, generous and peace loving. But when it comes to garden produce shows, they enter to win trophies.

Correct

"And when the Royal Horticultural Society decide some of the entries are not entirely correct or fair, the ladies fight back with everything they have including secateurs, garden loppers, and weedkiller – not that they are at all influenced by American film director Quentin Tarantino's liking for violence."

In Inside Job by Margaret Kynaston, Judith, on remand for murder, is visited by best friend Chris.

Mrs Smith said: "The play will having you laughing and gasping in turn until the final curtain."

Both plays are being performed from February 21 until February 23 at Llanymynech Village hall at 7.45pm.

Tickets cost £6 (£5 concessions) and are available from Llanymynech Village Hall or on(01691) 830558.

Louise Idoux, Sharon Dellow and Mave McMahon in After the Llantin Tarantino garden produce show.

Screening an unusual film

A VILLAGE hall near Oswestry will show a romantic comedy with a difference on Saturday.

The film, at 7pm, as part of the Trefonen Entertains project is Tortoise in Love, which is a mainstream British romantic comedy with an unusual story because it was filmed in a village in Oxfordshire.

The WI did the catering, the local salon opened early for hair and make-up and villagers put up the cast and crew in their homes.

The story of the village that made the film has attracted substantial media attention since it started.

Doors open at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be available with a licensed bar. Ticket prices are £3.50 adult, £2.50 child.

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GIG GUIDE 01691 668094

Acclaimed classical musicians in concert

GIG GUIDE with Edward Roberts

CLASSICAL music fans are in for something special this week as critically acclaimed pianist Tadashi Imai and violinist Chieri Tomii will be performing at Oswestry School.

By the time he was 14, Tadashi Imai had already won several important Japanese music awards, including grand prize at the Kamakura City national music competition.

Already a talented musician he went on to hone his craft at the Royal Academy of Music, London, as well as music schools in Tokyo and Texas.

In 2008 as well as winning the grand prize at the Grand Prix International Chopin Competition he was appointed Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

At only 10 years of age Chieri Tomii won the Student Music Competition of Japan, since then she has gone on to win a number of other awards as well as performing in numerous master-classes.

Both are extremely talented musicians and will be performing Bartok's sonata No.2 as well as sonatas by Beethoven and Franck.

The concert which takes place on Monday, February 18, will be held in the Peter Humphries centre starting at 7-30pm with tickets costing £14 for adults and £7 for children. For details ring 01691 681135.

Recession got you down? Feel like wallowing in misery due to the current state of the world? Or maybe you just like your music more depressing than a European arthouse film.

Tadashi Imai will be performing at The Ironworks

If this is the case then get down to The Ironworks on Friday night, as they will be hosting a night of musical melancholy.

The event titled 'Gloom' is described as being 'bleaker than a bus trip to Rhyl' and will see live music from Contact High and a light show courtesy of Freja. It starts at 8pm with tickets costing £3.

The same night Dai Robs will be playing at the Lowfield Inn, Marton. The singer-songwriter from Mid Wales, who plays a mix of blues and soul will be playing original material with the odd cover thrown in for good measure. It starts at 8pm and is free entry.

The Royal Oak in Welshpool will have music from OK Brother on Friday night. The duo are known for their vocal harmonies and will be playing a selection of covers. The gig starts at 9pm and it's free to get in.

The Chicago Swing Kats will be performing for another jazz lunch at the Ironworks on Sunday, February 17. Unfortunately the last one was cancelled due to snow but now they're back.

It starts at 12.30pm and runs till noon, tickets cost £4.

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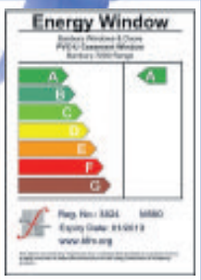

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*Offer only applicable to ŠKODA Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS in Brilliant Silver Metallic, Steel Grey and Denim Blue Metallic with spare wheel. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Discount only applies to OTR price of vehicle including metallic paint and spare wheel. Optional specification cannot be added on this offer. **3 years or 30,000 miles free servicing (whichever comes sooner). Terms and Conditions apply. Available when purchased with Solutions. 7.9% APR Representative. Available on new retail orders subject to availability before the 31st March 2013. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available for over 18s. Excludes the Channel Islands. ŠKODA Finance. Freepost ŠKODA Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Official Fuel Consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions for the ŠKODA range 237 – 89 g/km.

MARKETS AND NEWS

01691 668094

Welshpool livestock market

Welshpool Livestock Sales
February 11

OTMS (33)

An entry of 33 over thirty month cattle sold to average 121ppkg for the 19 older cows, 145ppkg for the bulls, 133ppkg for the cows 48-72 months and 131ppkg for the heifers under 48 months.

I Francis Bryndu sold a Welsh Black Cow weighing 827kg to a top price of £1207.42. A Limousin cow weighing 743kg sold for £1129.36 from J E & D W Rogers Red House.

A Limousin bull from R M Evans New House sold to 148ppkg. A well meated Limousin cow under 72 months weighing 847kg from A T Edwards Glanaber sold for £1465.31.

I Francis Bryndu received the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price older cow sold on the day.

If you require any further information regarding this section please contact the market on 01938 553438 or the Auctioneer Glandon Lewis on 07774 224999.

FAT CATTLE (8)

Only eight fat cattle presented today selling to average 180ppkg for the heifers and 216ppkg for the steers.

Four Limousin steers from E E & M J Jones & Sons Cwmbychan sold to 229ppkg, 222ppkg, 218ppkg and 208ppkg. T H Davies & Sons Clegyrddwr sold two heifers to 194ppkg and 186ppkg and a steer to 207ppkg. E E & M J Jones Cwmbychan receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price per kilo animal sold on the day. Weekly sale of Fat cattle every Monday will commence at approximately 12.30pm.

More Fat Cattle urgently required to meet a very strong demand from potential purchasers.

If you require any advice or wish to sell fat cattle at the market please contact the auctioneer Mr Glandon Lewis on 07774 224999 or the market office on 01938 553438.

PRIME HOGGETS (2772)

An entry of 2772 Prime Hoggets, sold to an overall average of 163ppkg.

Super Lights (17.5kg to 25.4kg) (45) to 137ppkg from J A Smith Cae Gwyn. Average of 126ppkg.

Lights (25.5kg to 32kg) (207) to 156ppkg from S Lane New Hall. Others to 154ppkg from T A Morgan & Son Old Castle. Average of 137ppkg.

Standards (32.1kg to 39kg) (619) to 184ppkg from C D Jones Bedol. Others to 176ppkg from T R Pinches & Son Lordshill Farm. Average of 157ppkg.

Mediums (39.5kg to 45.5kg) (1245) to 188ppkg from E H Pennie & Son Gwern y Ychain and CL & C Watkins Bank Farm. Others to 183ppkg from D E Bennett Cwmgwernog. Average of 168ppkg.

Heavies (45.1kg to 52kg) (450) to 172ppkg from A E Casewell Bodynfoel. Others to 168ppkg from M P Harding Lower Cefnypwll. Average of 158ppkg.

Over Weights (Over 52kg) (159) to 162ppkg from T D & M J Orrells Middle Llegodig.

Others to 158ppkg from M A Edwards Sarnau Villa. Average of 146ppkg.

CULL EWE (2949)

An entry of 2949 cull sheep on offer for sale today, sold to average £39.21 for the ewes and £79 for the rams. Top price of the day for the ewes was £139 per head from W R P Jones Pant. Top price for the cull rams was £ 79 per head from C L & C Watkins Bank Farm. Weekly sale of cull sheep to immediately follow the sale of fat lambs at approximately 12noon.

STORE LAMBS(296)

An entry of 300 store lambs achieving an overall average of £40. Theave lambs achieving a top price of £61 from D S Jones & Co Fronheulog.

Mixed and clean lambs achieving a top price of £65 from D M Jones Gesailfa Uchaf. Wether lambs achieving a top price of O & H Moyle Brynunty. Tup lambs achieving a top price of £68.50 from M H Pugh Gilfach. Mixed and tup lambs achieving a top price of £55 from Messers Roberts Tyddyn.

An entry of 18 cade lambs achieving a top price of £22.

IN LAMB EWES.

An entry of 300 in lamb ewes. Two year old ewes achieving a top price of £82 from S & A Perkins Upper Farm. Three year old mule ewes scanned mostly doubles achieving a top price of £97 from D A & M D Wright Heathmynd. Full mouth Texel ewes scanned mostly doubles achieving a top price of £76 from S & A Perkins Upper Farm. As found Mule Ewes achieving a top price of £61 from N A Derwas Plas Trehelig.

COUPLES

An entry of 30 ewes with lambs. A texel x two year old with twins at foot achieving a top price of £116 from N A Derwas Plas Trehelig. More ewes and lambs expected next week. Store lamb sale to commence at 10.30am with in lamb ewes and couples to follow.

DAIRY COWS

An entry of 20 dairy cows met with a tidy trade once again with R R Corfield & Co Bronynant achieving a top price of £2120 for a Willingham Ban Ban Red daughter.

J R Wilkinson Dyffryn Farm Meifod sold four pedigree cows to a top of £2060 and £2030 for two 2nd calvers.

A third calver and a fourth calver made £1850 and £1910 respectively. Two third calvers from M R Williams Wern Holdings sold for £1700 and £1760. K S Jones & Sons Lane Farm Deytheur sold three Riverdance Sizzler daughters for £1710, £1790 and £1730.

Two heifers from E G & A Edwards & Son Tynewydd sold for £1720 and £1700. A breakdown of the prices achieved where as follows:

£2000 + 3 lots, £1800-£2000 3 lots, £1600-£1800 9 lots, £1400-£1600 3 lots, Less than £1400 2 lots.

Next sale of Dairy cows will take place on Monday February 25.

If you have any dairy cows you wish to sell please contact the market office on 01938 553438 or the Auctioneer Mr Richard Evans on 07764 663192.

FORTHCOMING SALES:

Monday, February 18, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Monday, February 25, Sale of Dairy Cows.

Tuesday, February 26, February Store Cattle Fair.

Monday, March 4, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Monday, March 11, Sale of Dairy Cows.

Monday, March 12, Sale of Organic, Weanlings & Store Cattle.

Monday, March 18, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Monday, March 25, Sale of Dairy Cows.

Tuesday, March 26, March Store Cattle Fair.

Monday, April 1, Sale of Cows and Calves & April, Easter Spring Lambs Show and Sale.

Monday, April 8, Sale of Dairy Cows.

Tuesday, April 9, Sale of Organic, Weanlings & Store Cattle.

Monday, April 15, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Thursday, April 18, Sale of Pedigree Charolais Cattle.

Monday, April 22, Sale of Dairy Cattle.

Monday, April 29, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Tuesday, April 30, April Store Cattle Fair.

Oswestry cattle auctions

February 2

FAT CATTLE: (91)

A good number of cattle forward and a good mix of quality in all sections and a firm trade to go with it. A large number of friesian bulls and plainer types in the average also.

Top slots hit 241p for Heifers, 235p for Steers and 234p for Bulls. Highest price in the lump was £1511 for a Bull with a bottom book of 124p for a plain friesian bull.

An overall market average of 192.5p being achieved.

Young Bulls (36) Overall Average 182.5p.

Light Bulls (4) Average 169p (£690/head) Selling to 218p from R E Hughes Parc Farm

Medium Bulls (18) Average 197p (£1005/head) Selling to 234p from R W & J L Edwards Tyn Twll

Heavy Bulls (14) Average 170.5p (£1100/head) Selling to 202p from J E Evans & Son Middle Nantserth

Steers (16) Overall Average 188.5p.

Medium Steers (1) Selling to 206p (£1060/head) from R J T & G E Jones Penwtra

Heavy Steers (15) Average 188p (£1160/head) Selling to 235p from P L Harrison Neuaddllwyd

Heifers (39) Overall Average 204.5p

Light Heifers (1) Selling to 166p (£597/head) from A M Jones Middle Farm

Medium Heifers (4) Average 210.5p (£935/head) Selling to 215p from J D Jones Croggen Iddon

Heavy Heifers (34) Average 204.5p (£1110/head) Selling to 241p from P L Harrison Neuaddllwyd

A good trade throughout. Please keep them coming and thank you for your support

FAT HOGGETTS: (2364)

Superlights to 120p average 113.5p Lights to 152p average 138.5p, Standards to 173p average 150.5p, Mediums to 169p average 159p, Heavy's to 158p average 149.5p, Others to 151p average 143.5p. Overall average 152p.

FAT EWES: (770)

Ewes to £80.00 average £34.00, Rams to £70.00, average £49.00

Please Note : All sheep entering the market must be tagged.

CALVES: (77)

The largest entry for some time met with a harder trade throughout.

Limousin Bulls to £318 from T T Jones, West Felton, Limousin Heifers to £192 from R B & H L Edwards, Sweeney, Charolais Bulls to £250 from T Lewis, Maesbury, British Blue Bulls to £288 from H L Ellis, Gobowen, British Blue Heifers to £302 from R L Owen, Meifod.

Friesian Bulls to £90 from D Evans, Macynlleth. Hereford Bulls to £230 and heifers to £202 from H M Edwards, Llanrhaeadr.

U72 & CULL COWS: (54)

An entry of 54 cattle met with another fantastic trade with all sorts and types in tremendous demand. Top price £1464.75. Top price per kilo 189p. Top price per kilo friesian 142p

Cows

Charolais to 142p average 116.74p/kg

Belgian Blue to 146p average 138.46p/kg

Hereford to 104p average 95.67p/kg

Simmental to 144p average 134.20p/kg

Friesian to 142p average 122.94p/kg

Steers

Charolais to 130p

Limousin to 188p

Belgian Blue to 189p

Stock Bull to 148p averaged 141.46p/kg

54 Cattle average 128.04p/kg

If any vendor has changed their Farm Assured details please could you notify the market office (01691) 653547 so our data base can be updated many thanks.

Rotarians help for flood-hit families

CHARITABLE Rotarians in Oswestry have done their part to help Nigerians who have suffered the worst flooding in their country for 50 years.

Members of Borderland Rotary Club discovered one of the Shelterboxes they sponsored was sent to Nigeria.

Shelterboxes are large containers which include a disaster relief tent for an extended family, blankets, groundsheets, water storage and filtration equipment, cooking utensils, a basic tool kit, a children's activity pack and other items.

Mark Dyer, one of the Shelterbox Response team members, contacted Borderland Rotary Club to let them know that each of the boxes have a unique tracking number on them and they had used one from the Oswestry-based club.

Following the start of the rainy season in Nigeria, heavy rainfall caused rivers across West Africa to burst their banks, destroying houses and complete villages.

The Borderland Rotary ShelterBox was one of the many boxes deployed to the area which together helped more than 700 families.

Mike Lade, of Borderland Rotary Club, said the club had sponsored three of the green boxes last year at a cost of £590 each.

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You've got a good number with new hi-tech Mazda

Drive time with Graham Breeze

A FEW years back work colleagues gave me stick when I chose a Mazda6 as my company car. They were wrong then and they would certainly be wrong now if they criticised the new model.

Powered by Mazda's award-winning SKYACTIV 2.0-litre petrol and 2.2-litre diesel engines with the choice of six-speed manual and automatic transmissions the new 6 went on sale on January 25.

So I was anxious to get behind the wheel and compare just how far things have advanced at Mazda and driving in blizzards in the Scottish hills was the perfect chance – and I wasn't disappointed.

The new Mazda6 has a choice of petrol or diesel engines

The cabin is well designed and very comfortable

Advanced

Mazda6 brings together the most advanced iteration yet of Mazda's Zoom-Zoom driving and electrifying 'KODO – Soul of Motion' styling.

A combination of SKYACTIV technology and the striking KODO design will ensure the model is well equipped to compete in the competitive segment.

The 6 is the first mass-production Mazda model to be equipped with i-ELOOP, the Japanese company's unique brake energy regeneration system. Fitted as standard to the majority of Mazda6 models sold in the UK, this innovative system can boost economy by up to 10 per cent. It's the most recent ingredient of Mazda's building-block strategy for uncompromisingly efficient and fun-to-drive vehicles.

The new i-ELOOP joins the innovative 'i-stop' idle-stop system and SKYACTIV powertrains, chassis and body – first introduced on the Mazda CX-5 – and positions the car perfectly for fuel economy and CO2.

With combined fuel economy as high as 64.2mpg and emissions as low as 116g/km – without any sacrifice in performance, the Mazda6 is now right up there with the best in class.

The range includes two petrol engines and two diesels paired to six-speed automatic or manual transmissions. SKYACTIV-G petrol engines include the 2.0-litre 145ps and the 2.0-litre 165ps both producing 210Nm at 4,000rpm.

SKYACTIV-D diesel engines include the 2.2-litre 150ps producing 380Nm at 1,800rpm to 2,600rpm and the 2.2-litre 175ps producing 420Nm at 2,000rpm.

I tested the range but the 2.2-litre tourer diesel with 148bhp was easily the most impressive. It's quick and flexible while at the same time perfectly placed for either the private or fleet buyer with emissions of just 116g/km and combined fuel performance of 67.3mpg.

The cabin is typically Mazda and the driving position good with plenty of steering column adjustment to make the tallest or smallest of drivers feel at home.

Front, side and curtain airbags come as standard, and further safety features include radar-controlled cruise control, brake support – which warns the driver if they are too close to the car in front, and brakes if it detects an imminent accident.

Smart City Brake Support is also added which works between 2.5mph and 19mph to bring the car to a complete halt if it detects an imminent front-end collision.

The boot is massive even without the rear seats folded, and easily passed the golf club test.

The 6 range starts with SE spec, which brings daytime running lights, electric door mirrors, keyless start, air-conditioning and a touch-screen infotainment system as standard.

Camera

Two further variants of this spec are available: SE-L, which adds rain-sensing wipers, climate control and front and rear parking sensors, and SE-L Nav, which brings TomTom satnav. Sport trim level gets 19in alloy wheels, bi-xenon headlights, a reversing camera, leather trim and keyless entry.

The last decade has seen huge improvements in the entire Mazda range but of all the offerings it is still the Mazda6 that does it for me. Now the 6 looks better, handles better, is more economical to run and ticks just about all the right boxes.

Bumper to bumper

Car: Mazda6
Model: SKYACTIV-D 2.2 Tourer 150ps
Price: £26,435
Top speed: 130mph
0-62mph: 9.2secs
Combined fuel: 64.2mpg
CO2 emissions: 116g/km

2009 09 ALFA ROMEO MITO LUSSO 1.4 3-door, 6-Speed. Red with Black leather, 1 owner, 24,000 miles, air con £7,999

2005 05 MINI COOPER S CONVERTIBLE 6 Speed, Automatic. Blue Metallic with Blue hood and Black leather interior, 44,100 miles, 17in alloy wheels, front sport lights £7,999

2009 58 BMW 320d SE Coupe Auto. Platinum Bronze Metallic, one owner, 56,000 miles, FSH reduced £12,499

2006 56 HONDA CIVIC ES 2.2 CDTi 5-door, 6-Speed. Black Pearl, alloy wheels, panoramic roof, 2 owners £5999

2005 54 MG ZS 5-door. Red with half leather, climate control, 2 owners, only 30,000 miles, from New £2999

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2007 57	**AUDI RS4 SALOON 6 speed,** Manual. Avis Blue Metallic, Graphite alloy wheels, full leather, sat nav, fully loaded, must be seen, 52,000 miles, FSH	£24,499
2010 10	**AUDI A4 2.0 TDi AVANTE SE** 143BHP 6 speed Manual. Metallic Silver, 64,000 miles, one owner, FSH	£13,999
2009 59	**AUDI A4 2.0 TDi SE SALOON SE 140 bhp.** Bright Red, 35,000 miles, one owner, manual 6 speed, FSH	£13,999
2010 10	**AUDI A4 2.0 TDi SE AVANT** 6-speed Manual 140bhp. Metallic Silver, 64,000 miles, FSH	£13,999
2006 06	**AUDI A6 2.0 TDi S-LINE SALOON** 6-speed Manual. Metallic Silver, 1/2 leather, sat nav, just been serviced by Audi, FSH	£9,999
2006 06	**AUDI A6 2.0TDi S-LINE SALOON** 6 speed, manual, Metallic Silver, 1/2 leather, Sat Nav, 63,000 miles, FSH	£9999
2007 07	**BMW 520d SALOON** 6-Speed, Manual. Metallic Black, 23,000 miles, FSH	£10,999
2002 02	**BMW 320d TOURING SE** Automatic. Metallic Silver, full leather interior, 74,000 miles, FSH	£4,999
2008 58	**BMW 520d SE TOURING** 6-Speed, Manual. Metallic Black, 58,000 miles, FSH, privacy glass,	£11,999
2011 11	**BMW 116 d M-Sport,** 5-door. White, Manual, 18,000 miles, £30 a year tax + duty	£15,499
2009 58	**BMW 320d SE** Coupe Auto. Platinum Bronze Metallic, one owner, 56,000 miles, FSH REDUCED	£12,499
2007 57	**BMW 120d SE Coupe 6 speed Manual.** Metallic Grey, 50,000 miles, FSH	£11,999
2006 06	**BMW 318i M-SPORT CONVERTIBLE Manual,** only 38,000 miles, immoba Red, FSH	£9,999
2011 11	**BMW 320d SE 6-speed Manual 184BHP.** Metallic Red, 14,000 miles, one owner, FSH	£18,499
2002 02	**BMW 320D SE TOURING** Auto. Silver Metallic, Grey leather interior, 79,300 miles, alloy wheels, roof rails	DUE IN
2009 59	**CITROEN C3 PICASSO VTR+ 1.6 HDi** Diesel. Burgundy Red Metallic, £30 a year road tax, 1 owner, 30,200 miles	£7,299
2009 59	**CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi AIRDREAM** 5-door. Metallic Silver, 30 a year Road Tax, 1 owner	£6,999
2002 52	**FIAT PUNTO SPORTING** 3-door. Metallic Grey	£2,499
2009 09	**FORD FUSION ZETEC 1.4 TDCi** 5-door. Blue Metallic, 27,000 miles, one owner, £30 a year road tax	£7,499
2009 59	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC** 5-door. Bright Blue Metallic, 33,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£7,499
2007 56	**FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1.6 Manual.** Metallic Silver, 55,000 miles	£4,999
2009 59	**FORD FOCUS 2.0 TITANIUM ESTATE** Automatic, 10,000 miles, 1 owner, Metallic Blue, FSH	£8,999
2009 59	**FORD MONDEO TDCi ZETEC 6 Speed Manual.** Blue Metallic, 27,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£9999
2006 56	**HONDA CIVIC ES 2.2 CDTi** 5-door, 6-Speed. Black Pearl, alloy wheels, panoramic roof, 2 owners	£5999
2009 59	**KIA CEED 1.6 LS** 5-door Diesel. Metallic Blue, 33,000 miles, 1 owners	£8,499
2003 03	**KIA SORENTO 2.5 XE** 4x4 Manual Diesel. Metallic Blue, 79,000, FSH	£4999
1998 R	**MERCEDES 2.3 V230 TREND** Auto, 6 Seats. Blue Metallic, twin sun roofs	DUE IN
2008 08	**MERCEDES C200 CDi ELEGANCE ESTATE** 6-Speed, Manual. Metallic Grey, full leather, 59,000 miles, FSH	£11,999
2005 54	**MG ZS** 5-door. Red with half leather, climate control, 2 owners, only 30,000 miles, from New	£2999
2005 05	**MINI COOPER S CONVERTIBLE** 6 Speed, Automatic. Blue Metallic with Blue hood and Black leather interior, 44,100 miles, 17in alloy wheels, front sport lights	£7,999
2009 59	**NISSAN NOTE VISIA 1.6 Auto** 5-dr. 1 owner, 24,000 miles	£6,999
2009 59	**NISSAN NOTE 1.4 ACENTA MPV** Coffee Latte, 1 owner, 41,500 miles, alloy wheels, air con	£6,499
2009 59	**NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi ACCENTA** Bright Blue Metallic, 18,000 miles, one owner, FSH	£11,499
2010 59	**NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi ACCENTA** Cafe Latte Metallic, 18,000 miles, FSH, one owner	£11,499
2009 59	**PEUGEOT 107 998cc** 5-door. Red, 10,000 miles, FSH, 1 owner, £20 a year Road Tax	£6,499
2004 04	**PORSCHE CARRERA 4s** 4X4, 4 Wheel Drive. Silver Metallic, Grey Leather, 46,000 miles, FSH, must be seen	REDUCED £24,999
2005 55	**RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8** Hatchback Manual. Metallic Silver, 90,000 miles	£2,499
2010 60	**RENAULT MEGANE T SPORT CUP** 250bhp COUPE Metallic Racing Blue, 1 owner, 17,000 miles, graphite wheels	£14,999
2009 59	**RENAULT CLIO 16v EXPRESSION 5-door.** Metallic Silver, 25,000 miles	£6,499
2009 59	**SEAT IBIZA 1.6 SPORT** 5-door. Metallic Grey, 24,000 miles, FSH	£6,999
2009 09	**SKODA FABIA 2 1.4 Estate.** Blue Metallic, one owner, only 15,000 miles from new	£7,499
2007 07	**TOYOTA AURIS TR 2.0 D4D** 5-door Hatchback. Metallic Silver, 75,000 miles, FSH	£5,499
2009 59	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 CLUB** 5-door. Metallic Blue, one owner, 18,000 miles, FSH	£5,499
2009	**VAUXALL ASTRA LIFE 1.6 HATCHBACK** 5-door. One owner, 1,300 miles, Metallic Silver	£6,499
2009 59	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRi** 3-door. Automatic, Metallic Black, 1 owner, 12,000 miles	£7,499
2006 56	**VAUXHALL ASTRA TWINTOP DESIGN CDTi** Manual. Metallic Blue, 59,000 miles, FSH	£5,999
2009 59	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA CDTi EXCLUSIVE 160Bhp** Manual. Metallic Red, 43,000 miles, 1 owner	SOLD
2003 03	**VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.0 DTi SALOON Manual.** Metallic Grey, 84,000 miles	£2,999
2008 58	**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi HATCHBACK** 120bhp EXCLUSIVE Metallic Silver, only 39,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2008 08	**VOLVO XC90 DE SE Geartronic** , 7 Seats, 43,000 miles, half leather interior FSH Graphite Grey Metallic	£17,999
2005 55	**VOLVO V50 2.0 D SE ESTATE.** Metallic Silver, full leather, 84,000 miles	SOLD
2009 59	**VOLVO S40 2.0 TD 143bhp 4-door.** Blue Metallic, 1 owner, only 8,000 miles from new	£10,999
2008 58	**VW POLO MATCH 1.4 AUTOMATIC 5-door.** Black Metallic, 59,000 miles, alloy wheels, privacy glass	£5,999
2003 03	**VW POLO 1.4 3-door Manual. Bright Red,** 61,000 miles, FSH	£3,250
2009 09	**VW SCIROCCO GT 2.0 TFSi COUPE 200PS** Blue Metallic, one owner, only 13,700 miles, 5-speed box, 18" alloy, climate control, parking sensors	£15,999

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Motoring

Search to find Vauxhalls older than two years

Award-winning Vauxhall dealer Arthurs of Oswestry has joined a search to find owners of Vauxhall cars aged two years or older – because they may be missing out.

A large number of such owners are not taking advantage of considerable savings that can be made on their car maintenance.

They can sign up free to the Vauxhall MasterFit Service Club and take advantage of half price MoTs for life as well as discounts of up to 25 per cent off parts and labour.

A further incentive to anyone signing up before March 31 is to receive a free £40 MasterFit voucher which can be used on their next visit to the Arthurs of Oswestry dealership in Lower Brook Street.

Fantastic

Mark Evans, service manager of the award-winning Vauxhall dealership, said: "As part of our commitment to making motoring more affordable for customers, we are delighted to be reminding local Vauxhall drivers with a vehicle two years or older of the fantastic discounts and benefits through signing up to the Vauxhall MasterFit Service Club.

"It's a great way for owners of Vauxhall vehicles aged over two years to take care of their car for less. In addition to the great range of offers, members can enjoy peace of mind that comes with knowing their Vauxhall is in the capable hands of the people who know their vehicle best."

Mark said: "With all the latest specialist tools and diagnostic equipment designed specifically for Vauxhalls, it means our customers benefit from a genuine service and repair history that enhances their vehicle's resale value."

He added: "We hope Vauxhall drivers who are currently missing out will be encouraged to sign up to the Vauxhall MasterFit Service Club and make the most of the range of fantastic discounts available."

Mark says some owners of Vauxhall cars may be missing out on a great service deal

The new Peugeot 2008 – stays in the supermini class, but has the look and feel of a compact SUV

Peugeot's crossover is ahead of supermini field

Peugeot's new 2008 supermini crossover is aiming to stay ahead of the market with a car the length of a supermini but almost the height of a compact SUV.

It will be 4.16m long; about 20cm longer than the 208 but still in supermini territory.

Few real details have been released, but the engine choices will include at least one sub-100g/km option for road tax-free motoring.

The new three-cylinder petrol engines debuted in the 208 will also see service.

Alloy wheels will be up to 17 inches in size, while the firm mentions 'mud and snow' tyres being available.

Style influences appear to come from the RCZ coupe in the shape of a flowing roof line.

The 2008 can't copy the RCZ's 'double bubble' roof due to the expense of such a design, but it does take some inspiration from its sporty cousin.

It is the first Peugeot to be designed across multiple market zones to cut costs, and near-identical cars will be built in France, China and Brazil to cope with demand on their respective continents.

The 2008 will make its world debut at the Geneva Motor Show in March, before the order books open in June and the car arrives in showrooms later in the summer.

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Luxury all way with ever dependable Range Rover

By Ian Donaldson

Opening a door on the newest Range Rover, it seems laughable that the first version in 1970 had a rubber floor covering so you could hose out the dirt left by your wellies.

Turn a hose on the deep pile of today's car and onlookers might conclude you'd gone mad. And they'd be right.

The Range Rover people got their market wrong all those years ago, but they've been catching up (profitably) ever since.

What the world wanted, and never more so than today, was a vehicle that would take you almost anywhere, but not with rubber underfoot, but in the lap of luxury.

You can't blame Range Rover's designers for pampering to every demand, to the extent it's easy to spend more than £100,000 on a new model by simply adding smarter wheels.

The range now starts at £71,295 but it's going to need heroic restraint on the part of an owner not to go wild with the tick boxes at ordering time.

Never has a car been more tempting in the add-value department. Just as well, then, that the base for your spending spree is worthy of your cash.

Only modestly bigger than the car it replaces, this fourth generation Range Rover's claim to a headline is the way it has shed weight; taking a corpulently heavy car to something that's now merely very heavy (the weight of two Fiestas, for instance).

Get stuck in – the test drive model coped manfully with the off-road experience

Extensive use of aluminium instead of steel is the reason the newest Rangie gives the scales an easier time. It means smaller engines can now perform as well, or better, than the previous larger ones and use less fuel.

A varied route on the way to some off-road action on the press launch saw 33mpg on the trip computer of a car with the smaller diesel doing the work. That's impressive, even allowing for some gentle miles in recognition of the light snow falling through the headlights.

The test car was a Range Rover 3.0L TDV6 Autobiography, costing £77,805 and towards the top end of the smaller-engined range. On paper it's slower than the larger diesel, but unless extended feels no slower. Quite quick enough, in fact, with a 130mpg top speed and the canter to 62mph in 7.4 seconds.

There was more snow on the off-road drive, meandering through the country estate Land Rover has used for half a century to hone the go-anywhere prowess of its cars. And several days of below freezing temperatures left the ruts as slippery as a politician's reply.

No owner who cared for his car's paintwork or wheels would have pointed a Range Rover along some of the terrain chosen to show how clever the newcomer is off-road. So clever it knows precisely what setting to use for the all-wheel drive system without you touching anything.

A couple of slow hours later (and at 8mpg!) we clawed our way back on to the public road, after a quick car wash and safety check. Good to know the car will cope, even if you never ask it to.

The new car is unmistakeably a Range Rover, with big windows, a square cut stance and high driving position. It looks quietly posh outside and positively indulgent inside, where a priority was more legroom in the rear (lots of overseas buyers like to be chauffeured).

There is now enough space for a big chap to sit comfortably behind his twin up front. Choose executive class rear seating (a mere £3,860) and you'll recline in cooled or heated seats; pay another £4,000 and you can pass the journey looking for the 29 speakers of the premium sound system.

All a long way from taking some hay down to the ponies in the bottom paddock.

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The unmistakeable square-cut stance of the 'Rangie'

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62 Astra Sports Tourer 1.7 16v CDTi (130PS) SE Start/Stop ecoflex Technical Grey .... POA
62 Astra GTC 2.0 16v CDTi (165PS) SRI 3dr Start/Stop Carbon Flash .... POA
62 Astra GTC 2.0 16v Turbo (280PS) VXR Power Red .... POA
62 Astra Sports Tourer 2.0 16v CDTi SE Start/Stop Silver Lake ... POA
62 Agila 1.2i 16v VVT SE (a/c) Ecoflex Moroccan Blue .... POA
62 Mokka 1.6 16v SE (115PS) Borracay Blue .... POA
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SPORT

Indoor studio set to give all golfers a boost

Richard Edwards leads a lesson in the new golf facilities at Oswestry Golf Club

WOULD-BE golfers in the Oswestry area don't have to worry about bad weather stopping them from giving the sport a go.

The town's golf club has launched a new indoor coaching studio – and is holding an open evening for anyone to come along and swing a golf club.

The launch night is on Wednesday, February 27, at the club, which can be found at Aston Park, near Oswestry, from 5.30pm-8.30pm. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

The new facility is part of the club's development plans under Richard Edwards, who has recently joined the club as head professional. His team will be on hand to offer free advice to those attending.

Edwards is a PGA tutor, who coaches trainee professionals on how to coach, and has worked with both the Golf Union of Wales and the former English Women's Golf Association as a national coach.

The state-of-the-art studio includes the latest video equipment and ball launch monitoring hardware and can be used by beginners starting out in the sport just as easily as experienced golfers looking to fine tune their game.

"It works just as well for the beginner, who can see where they need to improve their swing and understand better what the coach is teaching them," said Richard Edwards.

Supported

"I have used the facility to give lessons to players ranging from a single figure golfer to a 36 handicap lady – and all have the found the feedback they receive very helpful in getting even more enjoyment from their golf."

Further information is available from Richard Edwards on 07855 890117 or by emailing rjedwards13@yahoo.co.uk The evening is being supported by the Shropshire & Herefordshire County Golf Partnership.

Mark Taylor, county development officer for the Shropshire and Herefordshire CGP, added: "These kind of events are an ideal opportunity to give golf a go – even in the midst of winter!

"The facilities at Oswestry will enable the coaching team there to deliver schemes to help people into the sport all year round."

Get into golf is a national campaign to inspire new golfers run by the England Golf Partnership through its network of County Golf Partnerships.

Get into golf opportunities include free or low-cost beginner courses with PGA professionals.

They are a fun and sociable way to start golf – and a great way to make new friends.

Club's captains drive-in

Preparing to tee-off at Mile End are, from left, seniors captain Ken Hayman, ladies captain Janice Turner, club captain Ron Pugh and junior captain Keiran Davies

OVER 80 members took part in the team competition that followed the drive-in of the club's new captains for 2013.

Some excellent scores were posted but the winning team by a clear margin was Roger Edwards, Jaz Heer, Jamie Stokes and Dylan Jones.

Peter Beckett won the £50 prize for corrected predicting the length of the new club captain's drive at 243 yards which, to much astonishment, found the fairway.

Pair will play for Midlands

TWO Ellesmere College rugby players have been included in the Midlands under-18 side for their divisional match against the South West at Taunton on Sunday (2pm).

Wing Colin Dickson and No8 Louis Chaudron, both members of the Worcester Warriors Academy, have been selected for a game that forms the next part of the selection process for this season's England under-18 clubs and schools squad.

The Midlands will also play the North in a rearranged fixture at Rugby Lions on February 24 following last month's postponement caused by snow.

Head coach left happy

NORTH Wales Crusaders head coach Clive Griffiths is pleased with how his side responded in the second half to beat Thatto Heath Crusaders 50-10 in a pre-season warm up.

Crusaders were just two points ahead of amateur side Thatto Heath at the break but there was a big turn around in the second half.

"I'm pleased with the response after half time. Some of the tries we scored in the second half were top drawer," said Griffiths.

Tables

Welshpool Dominoes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Social Club A	19	15	4	92	41
Celts	19	13	6	85	48
Pinewood C	18	14	4	82	44
Compasses	18	11	7	71	55
Waterloo	19	11	8	71	62
Sun Inn	19	9	10	67	66
Pinewood A	18	9	9	61	65
G/Dragon Butt B	18	8	10	60	66
Cock P/A	18	8	10	57	69
Pinewood Dragons	18	7	11	56	70
Bowling Club	19	6	13	49	84
G/Dragon Butt A	19	5	14	49	84
Powis Arms P/Q	18	4	14	40	86

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Railway	20	16	4	96	44
Cock A	20	14	6	91	49
Talbot	20	11	9	76	64
Westwood	20	11	9	75	65
Westwood Wand	20	10	10	73	67
Kings Head	20	11	9	72	68
Angel	20	11	9	71	69
RAF Boys	20	9	11	69	71
Horseshoe	20	10	10	68	70
Grapes	20	11	9	66	74
Muriels Bunch	20	9	11	64	74
Breidden	20	8	12	64	76
The Real Railway	20	9	11	64	76
Wellington	20	1	19	30	110

English Clubs Rugby Championships

	P	W	D	L	BP	Pts
Sefton	18	17	0	1	14	82
Douglas	18	16	0	2	13	77
L'rpool Collegiate	18	12	0	6	9	57
Dukinfield	17	11	1	5	10	56
Ormskirk	16	11	0	5	10	54
Vagabonds	18	10	1	7	12	54
Oswestry	19	8	1	10	6	40
Southport	18	6	1	11	7	33
Ramsey	18	7	0	11	7	30
Wallasey	17	5	1	11	7	29
Moore	17	6	0	11	6	25
Oldershaw	18	5	0	13	5	25
Marple	17	4	1	12	6	24
Buxton	17	2	0	15	6	14

The Roche North Shropshire Sunday Football League

Oswestry Bell 2, Cross Foxes 7; Ironworks 4, The Keys 2.

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Cross Foxes	14	10	3	1	59	33
Athletico Market	12	8	1	3	25	25
Oswestry Bell	10	7	1	2	15	22
The Keys	13	7	1	5	12	22
The Oak	11	5	0	6	-5	15
Malpas	9	4	2	3	4	14
Ironworks	12	3	1	8	-54	10
Dudleston Heath	9	2	1	6	-3	7
The Plough	12	0	0	12	-53	0

COBRA crash out of Bowl as Denbigh triumph yet again

COBRA must be be sick of the sight of high flying Denbigh after suffering their third defeat of the season to the Welsh League division two (north) title favourites.

After losing twice in the league, the Meifod side were downed 24-14 in the fourth round of the Swalec Bowl last Saturday. The tie, being played at the third time of asking, saw COBRA lead 14-10 with a quarter of the game remaining but, after making some enforced changes, they were unable to maintain that momentum in the latter stages.

"We''ve lost to them three times, but on in each occasion we've been in the game for large spells and played well," said spokesman James Watkin. "However, we've not had that strength in depth, and it shows in the end. It was the same last week. We were 14-10 up and very much in the game, but we lost our full-back through injury and made two changes in the front row. It affected us a bit, while they had a stronger bench, and they ended the game that little bit stronger.

"It was disappointing to go out as we would have liked to have had another good run in the competition, but it was not to be, and we can now focus on the league. At least being out of the cup means we won't face a fixture backlog."

Having not played for a month, COBRA were a little slow out of the blocks and trailed to a penalty before the visitors went further ahead with a well worked converted try from distance.

Stung into action, the Llanfair Caereinion side started to exert some pressure themselves and got back into the game with a penalty try following a five metre scrum.

First, Denbigh had their flanker sin-binned for going offside after breaking the bindings in the scrum, and from the next scrum, the home side were driving over only to be denied by another infringement.

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

The referee awarded a penalty try and Llew Williams duly converted from under the posts to reduce the arrears.

That was how the score remained at half time but, from the Denbigh kick off at the start of the second period, COBRA got their noses in front as they exploited the fact that their visitors were still down to 14 players.

They caught the ball in their own half and made good ground with a couple of strong carries before breaking down the right side of the pitch for fullback Rhodri Mayor to cross under the posts, Williams again converting.

Prospects looked promising at that stage but Mayor was forced off with a pulled hamstring, and the home side were also forced into two changes in the front row due to fatigue.

Denbigh then profited from some slack covering defence to go back in front when they found space from a kick through to touch down, also adding the conversion for a 17-14 lead.

And they sealed the win with a penalty try of their own in the latter stages with COBRA being penalised as their opponents pushed for the line.

COBRA return to league action on Saturday with a trip to struggling Rhyl, while the following week they visit Dolgellau in a rearranged tie in the North Wales Plate (12.30).

WELSHPOOL resume their hostilities on Saturday with an eagerly awaited trip to Newtown in the Welsh League division three (north) as they bid to get one over their local rivals.

COBRA youth player Jack Jukes tries to break free from the Denbigh defence

COBRA's Jack Jukes, Lloyd Bright and Aled Roberts battle for ball

Youngsters lose out

ON a dreadful, rain drenched day, Oswestry under-15/14s succumbed 29-14 to their Newport counterparts.

The young Os started brightly when Henry Braddick's blistering pace took him under the posts. Thomas Hill scored next when he dived over beyond the line with Finn Grogan converting his second conversion for a 14-0 lead.

Newport then rallied with their No8, their standout player, making yards before scoring in the corner.

The Newport forwards then took control in the mud and-despite Os nearly scoring in the corner, all the second half points went to the visitors. The game ended with two tries by Newport to give them a flattering scoreline.

Oswestry A book place in last four

OSWESTRY A booked their place in the semi-finals of the Hargrove Trophy with a 4-2 (three holes win) over Shfinal A.

After trailing 2-1 (two holes from the first leg), Oswestry turned the tie round in style by winning the return 3-0 (five holes), and will meet either Burghill or Wrekin A in the last four.

The border men dominated the return leg with Christian Smith and Lee Anslow winning by two holes, as did Joe Poole and John Janicki, while James Woodward and Dave Probert were one hole winners.

It's all square between Llanymynech B and Herefordshire B in their quarter final clash with the clubs 1.5-1.5 each.

Chris Williams and Gareth Evans won by two holes for Llany, while Dave Caswell and Chris Williams halved their match. There was a 4-0 defeat for Sandy Johnson and Nick Roberts.

The winners meet Herefordshire A or Ludlow A in the semi-final, with the tie in the balance.

Golf returns

Oswestry

THE result of the Oswestry Golf Club Sunday morning draw for partners four ball betterball medal competition no 6 over 15 holes, which attracted 20 entries, was: 1 Dave Knight and Rob Harding 57, 2 Joe Poole and Dave Thomas 58 (on countback), 3 Gary Mumford and John McLean 58 , 4 Nigel Suckley and Paul Huxley 59, 5 Grant Litchfield and Oliver Hughes 60 and 6 Paul Taylor and Frank Mottram 61. Rules Question winner was Alec Richardson

Llanymynech

Winners of the Winter Invitation Open on Saturday, February 9 were Pete Ogden and Gary Carter 49pts with Geoff Purslow and N Suckley second with 47pts and Daniel Jones and Lee Parr in third spot with 45pts.

Welshpool

Due to the weather it was was only possible to play a 14 hole Winter Tour stableford seniors competition on Thursday from yellow tees. Despite the teeth chattering temperature the winner was Peter Sharman with 33 pts. Runner up was Heath Hailstone 32 pts and third with 30 pts was Phil Jones.

Eagles are made to pay for two mistakes

Scrum action in the Oswestry defeat by Vagabonds

NEW-LOOK Oswestry were punished for a couple of lapses in concentration as they slipped to a 12-8 defeat at home to Isle of Man side Vagabonds in rugby's South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

Continuing with several fresh faces, the Eagles impressed for long periods on a quagmire playing surface but paid the price for switching off as the visitors snatched the spoils with two second half tries.

The opening first 15 minutes resulted in ping pong either side of halfway with both sides frequently knocking on as they got used to the soggy conditions at Granville Park.

Then, Oswestry were first to move the ball with any consistency, with the visitors penalised for holding on in the tackle allowing Chris Crutchley to kick three points. Buoyed by the opening score, the Eagles followed that with a clean break by Dan Williams and then a kick and chase by Nick Clay, both of which were defended well 10 yards out by Vagabonds.

Oswestry, however, were not to be denied as they won a scrum inside their half.

Pressure

With Luca Owen-Youens collecting a pass off his toes, he fed the ball across the line to Gareth Hughes on the wing who cut inside to score a well constructed try.

Vagabonds came back into the game but were given no time at all on the ball as the home forwards and midfielders closed them down repeatedly.

Oswestry continued to defend well in the second half, using Hughes as a lively outlet on the right wing. However, the game changed as a clearing Vagabonds kick was mishandled deep in the home half allowing the following-up visitors to gather up and score a converted try.

After a subdued 60 minutes performance, the visitors could now see a winning opportunity and piled the pressure on the home defense.

When Oswestry lost a scrum 30 yards out, a Vagabond centre picked the ball up and run clear to score a second touchdown to win the game.

Despite the defeat, the Eagles remain seventh in the table, and will be out to bounce back on Saturday when they visit Southport who lie one place, and seven points, below in the table.

SPORT

Morda reserves fail to build on a good start as they ship six goals

MORDA reserves failed to build on a promising start as they slipped to a 6-2 home loss to Prees to remain in the lower reaches of the Mercian Regional League division one.

A couple of defensive errors saw Prees striker Alex Hughes hit two goals, while Adam Ciesielski extended the lead with a second half brace.

Ian Smith and Keith Meredith found the net for Morda but Adam Turner claimed two to confirm the Prees supremacy.

It was a disappointing outcome after Morda had dominated the early play with Harry Davies and Callum Williams prominent in midfield.

Up front Ryan Kenny caused problems for Prees with his pace and strength on the right, but this supremacy was not turned into goals.

Against the run of play, the visitors took the lead when Alex Hughes pounced on a poor clearance and fired home from a narrow angle.

Hughes began to cause problems for the home defence and claimed his second after intercepting another misplaced pass.Right winger Adam Cielsielski doubled the Prees lead with two goals early in the second half.

Some preseverance by Ryan Jones on the right led to substitute Ian Smith finding the net for a Morda reply, but Turner then fired home from a cross to restore the difference for Prees.

Ryan Jones found Keith Meredith who showed good control to beat his marker and fire Morda's second before Turner completed the scoring with his second goal for Prees late in the game.

The reserves, lying fourth from bottom, will hope to give their condfidence a much needed boost on Saturday when they host Meole Brace. The kick off at Weston Road will be at 2pm.

MORDA first team, whose encounter with FC Hodnet was postponed last weekend, are due to travel again on Saturday when they face Shifnal United in the premier division.

Welshpool halt slump in form with battling win over fellow strugglers

WELSHPOOL TOWN halted their slump in the Spar Mid Wales League division one with a crucial 3-2 home win over fellow strugglers Dyffryn Banw – their first victory of 2013.

After four straight defeats, Pool steadied the ship with Tom Reynolds netting twice and Stuart Buckley-Robbins getting the other to ease their growing basement concerns.

Although the Lilywhites are third from bottom, they are now seven points above Banw who remain entrenched in the relegation places despite improved results of late.

After crashing 5-1 at home to leaders Llanidloes Town the previous week, **FOUR CROSSES** got back on track with a welcome 2-0 home verdict against fourth placed Berriew.

Goals from Scott Graham and Jack Harris secured the spoils, leaving third placed Crosses just five points adrift of Llani but having played a game more.

Second placed Builth Wells kept up the title pressure with a 5-0 romp at Newbridge, and are now just one point off top spot, although they have played two more games than the pacesetters.

While Llanfair United were savouring their famous 3-2 Central Wales Cup win over Caersws, their title prospects in division two were also given a boost as closest challengers Llandrindod Wells went down 2-1 at third placed Knighton Town. Llandod still trail by seven points.

KERRY, in fourth, missed a chance of making up ground as they went down disappointingly 3-0 at Talgarth, while Presteigne crashed 5-1 at Rhosgoch and Machynlleth maintained their revival with a 4-2 home verdict against Aberdyfi.

After gaining their first away win of the season the previous week, second division strugglers **LLANFYLLIN** maintained the momentum with a 3-0 win over Dolgellau in the first round of the league cup with goals from Henry Wilson (2) and Glenn Evans.

Marauders in recruits hunt

MONTGOMERYSHIRE Marauders Rugby League team are on the lookout for new recruits.

The first of two taster training sessions will take place on Sunday at Maesydre, Welshpool, with the club looking for new players, coaches and supporters to help out. The session will start at 2pm. For information, contact ***montgomeryshiremarauders@gmail.com***

Chess leaders suffer setback

LEADERS Oswestry A face a battle for honours in the Shropshire Chess League division three after suffering a 2.5-1.5 loss to Wellington B. Their defeat has really stirred up the promotion mix, with just three points separating four teams.

Scores: Oswestry A 1.5, Wellington B 2.5: G Ives 1, C Mace 0; K Grice 0.5, D Powell 0.5; R Thomson 0, N Sampson 1; J Davies 0, D Ogundipe 1.

Llanfair pull off cup shock with victory over Caersws

HIGH-riding Llanfair United savoured a famous day after dumping higher-rated Caersws out of the Central Wales Cup with a shock 3-2 home victory in the fourth round.

Flying high at the top of the Spar Mid Wales League division two, Llanfair had gone into the encounter in confident mood, against a Caersws side who had lost their previous three Cymru Alliance outings.

And boss Rhys Stephens could not hide his delight at what his side achieved as they booked their place in the last eight of the competition with a gutsy display.

"It was the biggest win, not just for this season, but for a long time," he said. "Caersws are a good side, but all the lads were outstanding and we deserved it. I'm pleased for everyone at the club and we're certainly going to celebrate this win."

Caersws had taken the lead in the 10th minute with a classy finish from Neil Mitchel who turned before lifting the ball over the keeper from 20 yards.

But, undaunted, Llanfair were back on terms just moments later as Rich Astley headed home a Paul Griffiths free kick.

The visitors should have regained the lead in the heavy conditions but the normally reliable Graham Evans crashed a penalty over the bar, and they paid for that lapse when Chris Gethin chipped a second for United.

Griffiths added a third with another excellent turn finish in the second half when crashing home a 20-yarder from angle and Caersws' hopes faded further when they had Rob Evans sent off for dissent.

Down to 10 men, they upped their game and reduced the arrears through Iwan Lewis, while sub Mark Grifiths had an effort disallowed for offside, but Llanfair were not to be denied their big day and held on for the terrific win.

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

Llanrhaeadr hit by new shootout jinx

LLANRHAEADR crashed out of the Central Wales Cup after suffering yet another penalty shootout defeat to their jinx side Montgomery in the fourth round of this year's competition.

Playing only their second game of the year, the Cymru Alliance strugglers were just glad to get back on the pitch – but it proved an unhappy return against a Monty side who inflicted more misery.

After finishing 1-1, extra time failed to separate the sides before the dreaded shootout saw Monty progress by virtue of successfully converting four kicks to their rivals' two.

Monty, challenging for honours in the Spar Mid Wales League division one, have defeated Llanrhaeadr twice before in the past on penalties, and made it a hat-trick to set up a quarter-final meeting with either Llanidloes or Tywyn Bryncrug.

Llanrhaeadr boss Mario Iaquinta remained philosophical, with his side's focus on next week's crunch home clash with Penycae as they battle for survival in the Cymru Alliance.

"It would have been great to win, and good luck to Monty, but it was just good to get back onto the pitch and have a two hour workout after having played just once in the last two months," he said.

Monty keeper Steve Goodwin pulled off one fine save to deny Ben White in the first half as Llanrhaeadr enjoyed plenty of possession, but the home side were ahead after the break when Jamie Evans cut in from the right and lashed his 25-yard left foot shot into the goal.

With the hosts tiring after their lengthy lay-off, Monty came more into the game and scored on the break when Elliot Jones squared for Rhidian Morris to convert.

Llanrhaeadr were reduced to 10 men early in extra time when Hamish Clifton was harshly sent off for two bookings.

There was nothing between the sides in extra time, before penalties decided the outcome, with Monty holding their nerve to win 4-2 in the shootout.

There were no such problems for GUILSFIELD who swept aside Hay St Mary's 5-0 to ease into the last eight – despite playing the second half with 10 men.

Two goals in the first 10 minutes from Jonathan Jones and Martyn Ziemann gave the home side the perfect start.

Will Thomas increased his season's goal tally with two further strikes. Nathan Leonard was shown a red card for violent conduct before the interval. Hay had a good deal of possession but the home side were always an attacking threat while Dave Littleford in the home goal had very little action to deal with. Chris Cathrall converted a penalty with 15 minutes left to seal a comfortable win against plucky opponents.

Guilsfield and Hay St Mary's players wait for a throw in

Advantage

Free-scoring WATERLOO ROVERS were the day's highest scorers in the Central Wales Cup as they walloped Bow Street 9-2 in a one sided fourth round affair at Maesydre.

Having reeled of a string of emphatic victories since the new year, Rovers proved too strong for their Aberystwyth visitors as they raced into a 5-1 interval lead.

And they never looked likely to relinquish their advantage after the break, with Steve Hole continuing his good form with a hat-trick, while there were two apiece from Chris Proctor and Charlie Proctor, with Steve Jones and William Pritchard also getting in on the act.

LLANSANTFFRAID Village were edged out 1-0 by Carno at Treflan, with a penalty enough to separate the sides.

Rhayader Town progressed with a 4-2 home win over Builth Wells with Tom Rowlands bagging a hat-trick, and Mike Collister getting the other.

Aberystwyth University's home tie with Aberaeron was postponed, while Llanidloes Town suffered a similar fate at Tywyn Bryncrug. Both games have been rescheduled for Saturday.

Pupils in cross-country battle

The boys race gets underway at the Shropshire Schools Cross Country championships held at Oswestry School

LOCAL runners put their best foot forward as hundreds of young athletes took part in this years Shropshire Schools Cross Country Championships at Oswestry School.

Sunny, dry weather and reasonably firm ground underfoot created ideal conditions for great racing.

Daisy Tickner, from Oswestry School, just missed out on retaining senior girls title when being pipped by Zoe Partridge from Shrewsbury High School by just one second

Isabel Bradley, from Charlton School, Wellington and Alex Burrows from William Brookes School, Much Wenlock were the stars of the show as they both recorded their fourth consecutive victory in these championships. Shrewsbury High School won the team race for the first time which gave them three team titles on the day and were denied a clean sweep by just one point from Moreton Hall in the junior age group.

The first six in each race are automatically seelcted for the English Schools Championships to be held in Derbyshire on Saturday March, 16 with two others in each age group added to the team next week.

Hancock proves to be golden oldie

Oswestry Olympian Jon Hancock on his way to winning the mens Over 55s race

Olympian Charlotte Jones was the top Oswestry cross-country woman in the race

THE fifth and final North Wales Cross Country League was held at Oswestry organised by Oswestry Olympians who recorded some notable individual and team success at their "home" event.

Jon Hancock, from Oswestry Olympians, won the mens over 55 overall award, Tania Brandon from Oswestry was second in the over 45s, while the men won the division one crown and the ladies finished second overall in division two.

Oswestry's Alison Lavender, the winner of the fourth race, was overall second while her team mate Peter Butler, the overall champion two years ago, was fifth overall in the mens category. Oswestry Olympians were second overall in division one to Colwyn Bay while Oswestry men won the second division title by 40 points.

It was a great day for Shropshire as the county claimed the two individual winners on the day and over the season overall. Telford's Claire Martin won her fourth victory of the season and with it the overall title for the seventh time, which must be a North Wales record. Joe Brocklehurst from Shrewsbury AC comfortably won the senior mens race, his third victory of the season, and with it the overall mens title.

Tables

Spar Mid Wales League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Llanidloes	17	13	2	77	22	41
Builth Wells	19	12	3	48	26	40
Four Crosses	17	11	3	42	24	36
Berriew	20	9	6	43	26	32
Waterloo	16	10	4	43	31	32
Aberaeron	18	10	6	34	22	32
Tywyn/Bryncrug	16	9	6	46	30	28
Montgomery	12	6	2	33	15	22
Aber Uni	16	7	8	34	32	22
Llansantffraid	16	6	7	42	36	21
Bow Street	15	5	4	40	36	21
Newbridge	16	6	7	33	38	21
Carno	16	5	10	25	33	16
Welshpool	22	5	16	33	70	16
Dyffryn Banw	19	3	16	23	82	9
Dolgellau	19	1	18	13	86	3

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Llanfair Utd	14	13	0	53	8	40
Llandrindod Wells	14	11	3	46	14	33
Knighton	16	8	4	41	25	28
Kerry	16	8	7	24	28	25
Hay St Marys	16	7	6	49	45	24
Rhosgoch	17	6	5	44	31	23
Machynlleth	13	6	6	36	38	19
Talgarth	18	5	9	31	46	19
Presteigne	14	5	6	38	42	18
Abermule	16	4	10	27	49	14
Aberdyfi	17	4	11	33	60	14
Llanfyllin	12	3	6	21	31	12
Bont	15	3	10	24	50	11

Mercian Regional Football League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Church Stretton	17	9	4	32	31	31
AFC Ludlow	12	9	1	37	13	29
Morda United	14	8	3	35	20	27
FC Hodnet	15	8	5	24	16	26
Telford Juniors	13	7	3	22	15	24
Shifnal United 97	16	7	6	27	21	24
Oakengates Ath	14	6	6	31	25	20
Allscott	15	6	7	37	33	20
Ketley Bank Utd	17	6	9	24	35	20
Wellington Ams R	13	4	7	18	26	14
Weston Rhyn	16	3	11	14	33	11
Whitchurch Alp R	13	2	7	20	34	10
Dawley Town	9	1	7	5	24	4

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ketley Town	18	16	2	95	24	48
Madeley Sports	17	12	3	58	18	38
Oswestry Lions	17	12	3	65	27	38
Rock Rovers FC	15	11	1	66	25	36
Prees FC	16	11	5	62	29	33
Bishops Castle T	16	9	3	56	29	31
Wroxeter Rovers	15	9	5	50	29	28
Oswestry BC	15	6	6	29	27	21
Brown Clee	15	6	8	32	40	19
Clee Hill	14	4	9	28	48	13
Meole Brace	17	3	12	27	62	11
Morda Utd Res	14	3	10	23	61	10
Hopesgate United	14	3	11	29	60	9
Shawbury Utd Res	18	2	16	11	87	6
Wrock Wood Jnrs	15	1	14	19	84	3

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Childs Ercall	19	17	1	97	20	52
Oakengates Rang	17	14	2	64	22	43
Claverley	19	14	5	77	31	42
Market D'ton Tigers	17	12	3	39	18	38
AFC Wellington	18	12	5	97	36	37
Athletico Broseley	17	11	5	60	37	34
Randlay 2012	17	9	7	52	39	28
Edgmond Rangers	18	7	9	48	34	26
Wrock Wood	14	7	6	49	27	22
Donnington S&S	17	7	7	49	44	21
Impact	17	7	10	35	45	21
Highley Miners Wlf	16	6	9	41	49	19
Madeley Sports R	16	3	13	21	64	9
Albrighton Juniors	17	2	15	22	66	6
Spalaig Britannia	17	2	15	20	111	6
Denso	18	0	18	6	134	0

Shropshire Chess League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Newport A	9	8	1	31	14	16
Telepost A	9	7	1	30.5	13.5	15
Shifnal & Telford A	9	4	3	25	20	10
Shrewsbury A	8	4	2	23.5	16.5	10
Priorslee Lions A	8	2	3	20	20	7
Church Stretton A	9	2	5	20	25	6
Shifnal & Telford B	9	1	7	15.5	29.5	3
Telepost B	9	1	7	8.5	35.5	3

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Wellington A	9	8	0	33	12	17
Newport B	10	7	2	30.5	19.5	15
Priorslee Lions B	7	6	1	22	13	12
Ludlow A	8	3	4	18	22	7
Shrewsbury B	8	3	5	20	20	6
Telepost C	9	2	6	19	26	5
Priorslee Lions C	10	2	8	17	33	4
Shifnal & Telford C	9	2	7	15.5	29.5	4

DIVISION 3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Oswestry A	10	6	1	26.5	13.5	15
Wellington B	10	5	1	25	15	14
Newport D	10	5	2	24.5	15.5	13
Shrewsbury C	9	5	2	22.5	13.5	12
Newport C	9	2	4	16	20	7
Shifnal & Telford D	10	2	6	14	26	6
Oswestry B	9	1	5	14	22	5
Telepost D	9	1	6	9.5	26.5	4

Stoneshouse Brewery Oswestry Dominoes League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Top White Lion	18	10	3	66	42	25
White Lion	17	9	3	66	36	23
Black Lion A	18	10	5	62	46	23
Black Lion B	17	10	4	59	43	23
Cross Keys	18	7	3	61	47	22
Bell	17	7	4	56	46	20
Horseshoe	18	9	7	56	52	20
Station	18	5	4	58	50	19
Plas Yn Dinas	17	7	6	52	50	18
Penybont Inn	18	4	7	48	60	15
Railway Inn	18	4	7	48	60	15
Black Horse	18	3	8	43	56	13
Royal Hill	18	1	15	27	81	4

SPORT

Weaver brace is boost to leaders

LEADERS Llandrinio stayed three points clear at the top of the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division two with a 3-1 home win over Four Crosses reserves.

A brace from Luke Weaver led the way with Dave Walton also on the mark, with Dan Jay pulling one back for the visitors.

ABERMULE RES stayed second after a high-scoring 6-4 home verdict against WATERLOO COLTS, in which Dave Anthony netted a hat-trick.

Lewis Sim, Ryan Jarman and Ricky Davies also found the net, while Waterloo stayed in the hunt with a double from Steve Roberts and other strikes from Scott Holley and Chris Hughes.

Two goals from Matt Knight helped fourth placed CHURCHSTOKE stay in touching distance of the leaders with a 3-0 home win against BERRIEW.

Reserves

LLANYMYNECH won their basement battle with Carno 3-2, but are still second from bottom four points adrift of Kerry reserves.

TREFONEN's basement troubles increase in the Honda division one after crashing 6-0 at Caersws reserves whose Sam Williams scored a hat-trick, with a brace from Sam Jones and another from James Coleman.

Elsewhere, LLANFAIR RES made it a good day for the club as they won 2-1 at lowly BETTWS to move into fourth spot, Sam Thorpe and Ashley Davies getting their goals, with Richard Davies responding.

LLANGEDWYN moved towards mid-table with a narrow 1-0 verdict at LLANFECHAIN.

St Martins hit by lack of matches

ST MARTINS were left kicking their heels in the West Midlands League division one last week – but not because of the weather.

After their thrilling 4-4 draw at Mahal the previous week, St Martins were due to host Trysull last week as they look to climb towards mid-table.

But the match, scheduled for the Venue at Park Hall which their ground share with The New Saints, was postponed as TNS were also in Welsh Premier action on the same day.

Derek Stokes' side will be hoping to get back on the pitch on Saturday when they entertain third bottom Bridgnorth Town reserves.

St Martins have played just twice since Christmas, and are becoming increasingly worried at the lack of action.

Rhyn game postponed

WESTON RHYN'S vital basement showdown at Whitchurch Alport in the Mercian Regional League premier division was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Frustrated by the lack of action, Rhyn now set their sights on another vital encounter at home to table propping Dawley Town on Saturday, a game they desperately need to win if they are to give themselves hope of climbing to safety.

Oswestry men left battered in defeat by rivals

HOCKEY
by John Bridgwater and Edward Roberts

IT was a case of the walking wounded as **OSWESTRY men's** hockey players suffered a bruising 5-2 loss at arch rivals Newtown in the ENER-G West Midlands League division two.

Having won 6-4 at Aston University the day before, the border side were looking for a weekend double to push into the top half of the table, but found themselves beaten in a rainswept clash that saw three players pick up nasty injuries.

On a saturated surface, top scorer Jody Wilson was forced off with a badly cut lip while Mark McBrien sustained a cut across the eye and Will Evans a stick to the back of the head in a tetchy affair.

Coach David Prince made a rare appearance in goal due to lack of numbers, and is expected to be in goal again on Saturday when Oswestry host third placed Pershore.

Wilson, who got one of the goals against Newtown along with Dale Seymour, is expected to be fit as the home side check on their injuries for the weekend action.

The previous day, Oswestry ran out 6-4 winners at lowly Aston University, with Wilson scoring a hat-trick. There was also a brace from Seymour and Charles Evans got the other. The visitors dominated possession and took charge in the second half after a tight first period in which they struggled to get into top gear.

OSWESTRY Ladies completed the double over Wilmslow with a 3-2 victory on Saturday.

Having won the previous encounter 6-0 Oswestry found the going tougher this time but were soon passing the ball well and controlling possession in the Wilmslow half.

Oswestry were denied any early success due to some impressive work from the Wilmslow keeper and went behind against the run of play with Wilmslow capitalising on a short corner during one of their brief forays into the Oswestry half.

Oswestry redoubled their efforts, eventually their pressure and persistence paid off with goals from Tracey Royle (via a deflection) and Sandra Jones, raising the score to 2-1 going into half time.

In the he second half pressure from the Oswestry side led to numerous missed opportunities, hitting the goal post on a number of occasions.

Oswestry's lone goal of the second half came courtesy of Sarah Lowe to make the score 3–1 and although Wilmslow came back with a goal of their own they were unable to even the score thanks to good defence from Oswestry.

Victory means they have won all 12 games this season, scoring 70 goals in the process and hold an eight point lead at the top of the table from chief rivals Bollington.

This Saturday, the league leaders have a home friendly against Chester II before having a rearranged league clash at home to Oxton the following week.

WELSHPOOL haven't had the easiest time, thanks to a string of cancellations before and after Christmas, but they returned to winning ways last Wednesday with an impressive 8-2 win over Dysynni. Keen to build on that success a confident Welshpool entered the game with Rhyl ready to secure another three points.

Ceri Chapman displayed some great skill, rounding three defenders to start the scoring off at 1-0 to Welshpool.

Goal opportunities came thick and fast with Sarah Williams close to putting a few in the net with full length dives for the far post.

Welshpool continued their attack with a second goal coming from Caroline Jones who fired the ball into the net after some great play.

After the break Rhyl were given a penalty corner and managed to work their way past the Welshpool defence, knocking the ball into corner of the net to score their first and only goal of the game.

Welshpool upped their game and were rewarded with a third goal with Ceri Chapman awarded player of the match for her skill both in distributing the ball and defending.

With this 3-1 win Welshpool move to third in the table, they will be playing Dysynni in a rematch on February, 16.

Fraughan shines as Saints turn on the style in 5-0 win

A TNS player goes past a Port Talbot defender during the 5-0 win

The Port Talbot defence are in chaos as TNS pile on the pressure

The New Saints 5 Port Talbot 0
By John Bridgwater

RYAN Fraughan proved chief tormentor as high flying The New Saints launched the second phase of the Welsh Premier with an emphatic victory against Port Talbot to move a commanding 10 points clear at the top.

The former Tranmere and Stockport County winger was a threat throughout, having a hand in the first two goals, before rounding off a comfortable win with his side's fifth deep into injury time.

Earlier, Mike Wilde netted twice, along with Alex Darlington and sub Greg Draper as the Oswestry men tightened their grip at the top.

With second placed Airbus without a game, and Bangor City dropping more points, the title picture looks increasingly rosy for TNS.

The Saints were in control from virtually the first whistle against the subdued Steelmen, with Darlington seeing his early shot saved after a super turn while Aeron Edwards fired just over.

But their early endeavours soon reaped reward on 17 minutes when Fraughan launched a strong run before rattling the post with his shot, but Wilde was on hand to crash home the rebound.

Continuing to prove a handful, Fraughan then fired wide from the edge of the box, before setting up the second goal on the half hour when playing an excellent pass to Simon Spender who crossed to Darlington who made no mistake from inside the six yard box.

The Saints continued to call the tune in the second half, with defender Kai Edwards – sensing his third goal in as many games — heading just over from Fraughan's corner while Spender blasted wide from close range.

The reigning champions duly increased their lead on 62 minutes when Chris Jones was set free down the right, his excellent cross finding Wilde who converted his second of the game and his 12th of the season.

Chris Seargeant sent a couple of efforts narrowly over the bar, substitute Greg Draper also seeing an effort from distance creep just past the upright.

However, two goals in injury time underlined TNS's dominance, with Draper neatly rounding keeper Steven Hall before slotting into the net, and Fraughan completed a fine individual display with a fifth goal five minutes into injury time.

The Steelmen had not won in 14 previous visits and again returned home empty handed as the Oswestry men emphasised their title credentials.

Their cause was helped with one of their main rivals, Bangor City, being held 3-3 by 10-man Prestatyn Town who bagged a last-gasp leveller. The Citizens also paid the price for squandering two penalties.

Former TNS wing back in new deal at Tranmere

FORMER TNS wing back Danny Holmes has committed to a new two and half year deal with League One leaders Tranmere Rovers.

The 24-year-old right-back returned to Prenton Park Rovers in the summer of 2011 after making 57 Welsh Premuer appearances and scoring three goals for TNS over two seasons.

He has now made 64 appearances for Rovers, including one in his initial spell, a League debut at Yeovil Town in November 2008.

"I've been delighted with Danny's performances since I've been back at the club. He's developed into a really strong defender and I think he can still improve his game here," said manager Ronnie Moore.

"He's a local lad, he loves the club and he's the type of player you want to have in your squad."

Holmes added: "I'm really happy to have signed the new contract.

"Everybody knows how much I enjoy playing for Tranmere and I'm delighted the manager wants me to stay at the club.

"Hopefully we can push on in the final few months of the season and get into the Championship."

Holmes' brother Tommy recently completed a move from Airbus UK Broughton to Prestatyn Town.

Rangers crash to their heaviest defeat of season

ELLESMERE RANGERS suffered their heaviest defeat of the season as Midland Alliance leaders Stratford Town ran riot, ***writes Matthew Viney***.

The visitors inflicted basement club Ellesmere's 18th loss of the campaign and the margin of defeat could have been even wider as the hosts were heavily out-gunned.

Stratford started the game 51 points ahead of their hosts and they underlined the gulf between the two sides over the course of the 90 minutes.

Rangers spokesman Mark McIntyre admitted his side had been soundly beaten but added that Stratford were destined to play at a higher level next season.

"We could have no complaints, he said. "We went into it knowing it was going to be really tough and if we had got anything from the game it would have been a bonus.

"Stratford have brought in a lot of players who have got experience of the (higher level) Evo-Stik Southern Premier League and that is the level they are destined for.

2 We have Dunkirk next week and it's vital we bounce back from this setback."

The visitors went in at half time just two goals to the good, although they should have been at least a further goal ahead.

Joe Halsall scored in the 12th and 27th minutes but Tyrone Fagan had a third strike harshly ruled out for a foul on Ellesmere goalkeeper Dave Maguire.

Lei Brown did extend their lead after 64 minutes though, heading home from a corner.

And Halsall completed his hat-trick shortly afterwards from the penalty spot after Fagan had been upended by Maguire in the area.

Second-half substitute Jamie Bailey created a fifth Straford goal which was finished by Anthony Robinson.

And nine minutes from time Bailey celebrated Stratford's sixth with a blistering strike before a curler from Brown on 83 minutes completed the rout.

In other news, keeper Lee Davies has joined Welsh outfit Llanrhaeadr.

Bridgnorth Town's game at Tividale was postponed.

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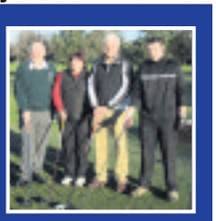

Welshpool looking to climb table with victory

WELSHPOOL Town bid to make it back-to-back wins in the Spar Mid Wales League division one when lowly Dolgellau are the visitors to Maesydre on Saturday.

Having been dragged towards basement danger, the Lilywyhites halted the slump with a much needed 3-2 home win against basement rivals Dyffryn Banw.

And they will be looking to build on that by capturing three more vital points against another of the lower league sides as they bid to edge up the table in the second half of the season.

They made hard work of it last week, coasting 3-0 at half time through Tom Rowlands (2) and Stuart Buckley-Robbins, before having to with stand a second half fightback from Banw whose second reply came from the penalty spot.

"We made a bit of a meal of it," said manager Dave Jones.

"We should have been five or six up at half time and players thought the game was won, which is always a dangerous thing to do. We've targeted six points from our games against Banw and Dolgellau, anything less would be a disaster."

If Pool bag another win on Saturday, they will be just a couple of points off the mid-table teams, although they have played more games than their rivals.

In-form WATERLOO ROVERS, who were again on the goal trail with a 9-2 beating of Bow Street in the Central Wales Cup last week, put their resurgence to the test with a league trip to MONTGOMERY.

"It was another very pleasing result on Saturday with everyone of my players performing brilliantly," said manager Dale Roberts.

"We're on a good run at the moment and will be hoping to continue that this weekend."

Morda sign new striker

VERSATILE striker Mark Griffiths has signed for Morda United to further boost their push for honours in the Mercian Regional League premier division.

Griffiths started the season with Cefn Druids, and was a member of their Europa League squad, and later switched to Cymru Alliance rivals Ruthin Town.

After suffering a total washout last week, Morda United bid to resume league action with Saturday's trip to Shifnal 97 as they look to keep the pressure on the pacesetters.

Club passes RFU tests

CHAIRMAN Steve Charmley hailed a "great accolade" as Oswestry became a fully accredited rugby club under the new RFU guidelines – the first in the county to do so.

The Club Accreditation scheme is based upon the six key drivers identified as crucial to a strong club – retaining and developing players, recruiting new players, recruiting and retaining high quality coaches, volunteers and referees, effective and efficient facilities, effective and efficient management and governance, and integration with the local community.

Each of these key drivers, together with the core values of the game, is represented within the club accreditation scheme and together they represent the component parts of a strong and sustainable club.

Club chairman Charmley said: "This is a great accolade for Oswestry Rugby Club.

"A lot of work has been done to achieve it, and it's great that all that work has now been acknowledged by the RFU.

"It's an especially sweet moment to be the first club in the county to become accredited.

"It must be recognised that although important, it's just a piece of paper.

"We now have to continue to implement our plans to grow and improve our facility and how we run the club."

On the pitch, Oswestry suffered a narrow 12-8 home loss to Isle of Man side Vagabonds to remain seventh in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

● Match report see Page 45

United eye another upset

LLANFAIR United will have their sights on another Central Wales Cup upset after being drawn at home to Rhayader Town in next month's quarter-finals.

The leaders of the Spar Mid Wales League division two shocked Caersws 3-2 last weekend, and now face another Cymru Alliance side on Saturday, March 2, as they bid to maintain their pursuit of silverware.

Boss Rhys Stephens was delighted after his side booked their place in the last eight of the competition with a gutsy display.

"It was the biggest win, not just for this season, but for a long time," he said. "Caersws are a good side, but all the lads were outstanding and we deserved it."

GUILSFIELD, who progressed comfortably with a 5-0 home win against Hay St Mary's, have now emerged favourites and have been drawn at home to Carno in the last eight. That tie will also be played on Saturday, March 2.

MONTGOMERY, who shocked Llanrhaeadr on penalties, have been paired at home to Spar Mid Wales League rivals Tywyn or Llanidloes on Saturday, March 9, while in-form Waterloo Rovers will visit either Aberystwyth University or Aberaeron, whose fourth round tie was hit by the weather and will be played this Saturday.

Quarter final draw: Aberystwyth University or Aberaeron v Waterloo Rovers, Guilsfield v Carno, Llanfair United v Rhayader Town, Montgomery Town v Tywyn Bryncrug or Llanidloes Town. Conference date for the ties is Saturday, March 9, although the games at Guilsfield and Llanfair will be played on March 2.

Hat-trick of injuries as men crash to 5-2 loss

OSWESTRY'S hockey players picked up an unusual hat-trick as they suffered a bruising 5-2 loss at arch rivals Newtown in the ENER-G West Midlands League division two.

Having won 6-4 at Aston University the day before, the border side were looking for a weekend double, but found themselves beaten in a feisty clash that saw three players need medical treatment after sustaining painful injuries.

On a saturated surface, top scorer Jody Wilson was forced off with a badly cut lip while Mark McBrien sustained a cut across the eye and Will Evans was left groggy after getting a stick to the back of the head.

OSWESTRY LADIES powered on at the top of the Cheshire Womens League division three with a 3-2 home win over Wilmslow III.

Victory means they have won all 12 games this season, scoring 70 goals and hold an eight point lead at the top of the table.

This Saturday, the league leaders have a home friendly against Chester II before having a rearranged league clash at home to Oxton the following week.

● Reports on Page 47

NO STOPPING TNS SAY RIVAL BOSSES

THE New Saints have been backed to retain the Welsh Premier crown by several of their rivals - but head coach Carl Darlington insists there's still a long way to go.

The defending champions boosted their title prospects with a 5-0 drubbing of Port Talbot last week, which Darlington described as their "best performance for three years", but they know they can ill afford to relax in their remaining nine outings.

Ten points clear at the summit, they are without a game this weekend – before returning to duty with a crunch top-of-the table showdown at Airbus UK Broughton the following week which is certain to have a bearing in the destiny of the title.

by John Bridgwater

Airbus have a chance to close the gap tomorrow night when they visit Prestatyn, but according to several league managers – including Carmarthen's former Wales defender Mark Aizlewood – the title is already done and dusted.

"I have little doubt that The New Saints will claim the title once again, with Bangor City chasing them all the way, although my tip for runners-up spot must be Airbus," said Aizlewood.

Darlington, however, insists there is still a long way to go, although delighted at the lofty position that the Oswestry men find themselves in.

"There is still a lot of football to be played, and a lot of points to be won and lost, but it's good to be in this position, the best position we've been in for three years at this stage of the season," he said.

"The title has gone down to the last game of the season for the last three years, so it's a different situation for us, which brings different pressure.

"But there is a lot of confidence and belief in the side, and we have to keep showing the same determination and discipline to keep that distance."

Darlington was delighted with the five-star display against Port Talbot.

It capped off a productive week that witnessed three home wins, with 13 goals scored and one conceded.

"Port Talbot have a very good squad and have added some very good signings so we knew we couldn't take them lightly," said Darlington.

"But to be honest, it was our best football performance for three years, and it was fantastic to watch. We scored five good goals, we could have scored more, and it was a different class at this level.

"We've had three games in seven days, which was a big demand for us. But we scored 13 goals in those games and had seven different goalscorers which shows we're not relying on one or two players."

The Saints outclassed Port Talbot Town thanks to a brace from in-form striker Mike Wilde and further goals from Alex Darlington, Greg Draper and Ryan Fraughan.

● Report see page 47

Ryan Fraughan wings in to complete the TNS scoring when curling his shot past keeper Steven Hall in the 5-0 hammering of Port Talbot at Park Hall

Crosses sign keepers

FOUR Crosses have signed two keepers as they bid to maintain their Spar Mid Wales League division one challenge.

With Alex Gunn suspended, Anthony Davies joined from Weston Rhyn to help out in last week's 2-0 win against Berriew, while 18-year-old Jack Matthews has also signed from Cymru Alliance side Llanrhaeadr.

Boss Nick Popyk thanked Rhyn for helping out at short notice last week. He was happy with last Saturday's win against Berriew as his side bounced back from 5-1 drubbing against Llanidloes the previous week.

"Berriew are no mugs, but we went into the game with the right attitude after what happened the week before," he said. "It was a pleasing win, and pleasing to keep a clean sheet." Four Crosses have no league game this weekend but hope to play their Montgomeryshire Cup clash with Montgomery at the fourth time of asking on Sunday.

Mario says game is 'must win'

LLANRHAEADR bid to shrug off their cup woes when they host Penycae in a crucial Cymru Alliance basement showdown on Saturday.

After bowing out of the Central Wales Cup with last week's penalty shootout defeat against Montgomery, the focus is now on league survival, starting with a must-win encounter against their Wrexham visitors.

Having played just once in the league for two months, Llanrhaeadr find themselves at the bottom of the table, one point adrift of Ruthin, and five points shy of Saturday's opponents, although they have games in hand on all the sides above them.

Desperate for points, boss Mario Iaquinta described the game as a "must not lose" as his side bid to clamber off the foot of the table.

Iaquinta is hoping his side will fare a little stronger after last week's gruelling cup action. "It was important to get back onto the pitch and have a two hour workout after having played just once in two months, and it will do us good," he said.

"Their keeper made some good saves but, having not played for so long, we started to tire." Midfielder George Hughes is back to boost the cause after missing last week.

Another of Llanrhaeadr's basement rivals Rhayader Town host GUILSFIELD who will be out to consolidate their top eight position after a 2-1 defeat at Porthmadog in their last league action.

Scholarship call to young players

A MEETING is being held tonight for players in this year's under-16 age group wanting to join the Walford College football scholarship scheme.

The scheme is not restricted to any particular clubs.

If anyone is accepted for this course next season they may also play for their local club or any other club they choose.

A meeting will be held at Walford College tonight at 7.30pm and anyone interested is invited to attend.

Match called off

OSWESTRY Boys Club face another weekend without a game after their trip to Clee Hill in the Mercian Regional League division one was postponed as Clee are now playing their delayed Shropshire Junior Cup clash with Highley Miners.

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